



# Item 6.1 - Business bulletin

## Education, Children and Families Committee

**10.00am, Tuesday 7 March 2017**

Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

## Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Cammy Day</p>  <p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 	<p>Cllr Cammy Day (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 Gordon Munro 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 Frank Ross (ex officio)</p> <p>For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rev Thomas Coupar (religious representative) Allan Crosbie (teacher representative) One vacancy (religious representative) Alexander Ramage (parent representative) One vacancy (teacher representative)</p>	<p>Ross Murray Committee Officer Tel: 529 4227</p> <p>Alasdair Oliphant Departmental Adviser to the Convener and the Vice-Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>

## Edinburgh Schools Inquiry

Last summer, the City of Edinburgh Council commissioned an independent inquiry after the collapse of a wall at Oxfangs Primary School and the subsequent closure of 17 schools. The decision to close the schools was not taken lightly, but the overriding priority at all times was the safety of pupils and staff.

The inquiry took six months and was led by respected construction and procurement industry expert, Professor John Cole, CBE. The findings of the report were discussed at a special Council meeting on 9 February.

The inquiry had nine remits, which included:

- reasons for the wall collapse;
- the Council's role in providing quality assurance of the buildings;
- contractual arrangements between the Council and the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP) who manage and run the schools on the Council's behalf; and
- any recommendations for the Council, other bodies and the wider industry.

During the inquiry, Professor Cole interviewed a wide range of people including representatives from those who built the schools, ESP, architects, structural engineers, parents, teachers and former and current Council staff from various departments. He also took evidence from professionals and experts in the procurement and construction industries.

Some key findings [from the report](#) which runs to over 250 pages, include:

- the collapse of the wall was due to poor construction and inadequate supervision/quality assurance of the work carried out;
- the Council made the correct decision to close the 17 schools;

- Insufficient independent quality assurance and poor record keeping by the Council and ESP;
- Ineffective quality assurance measures within the construction industry;
- The alternative education arrangements put in place for over 8,300 pupils was a 'remarkable feat';
- The issues identified in Edinburgh may be more widespread.

The report contains many recommendations for the Council and other bodies, both public and private, as well as the construction industry. These relate to areas such as procurement, construction, training and recruitment, the role of the building standards and independent certifiers and the sharing of information.

The Council now intends to develop an action plan to address all the recommendations the report identified to ensure they are all addressed.

It was pleasing that Professor Cole recognised the scale of the educational arrangements that were required and the outstanding efforts of teachers and other Council staff who pulled out the stops to ensure our children's education could continue.

### **Governance Review – Early Years and Schools**

Thanks to those who contributed to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Education Governance Review which closed on 6 January 2017. The review sought views on how education – from early years to secondary schools – is run to ensure it delivers excellence and equity for all children and young people.

Timescales for implementing the proposals from the Governance Review are not yet confirmed. The Scottish Government has already stated it will seek to make progress without legislative change where possible. A new Education Bill is due to be introduced in the second year of this Parliament and initial consultation on this is due to be held before the summer break.

Further updates will be made available through the Business Bulletin as details emerge and the issue will

also be kept under review at future meetings with the Consultative Committee with Parents.

### **Pupil Equity Fund**

The Pupil Equity Fund will be distributed to schools from the 2017/18 financial year. It is a new £120 million scheme which will allow extra funding to be allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. The Scottish Government has committed this funding over the next five years as part of the overall £750m Attainment Scotland Fund. It must be used to support children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential.

Publicly funded primary, secondary and special schools will receive £1,200 for each pupil in Primary 1 to S3, or equivalent, who is eligible and registered for free school meals, as estimated by using data from the Healthy Living Survey. The overall allocation to Edinburgh is just over £7.4 million and the funding levels for each school have been confirmed.

This additional funding will enable schools to carry out more work to tackle the effects of inequality and poverty on pupils. As a Council, we are committed to closing the attainment gap and already have many initiatives in place aiming to give all children the same start in life. Individual schools and head teachers will now assess their funding allocation to decide how money is best spent.

Head teachers have received national operational guidance to support the use of this funding. A range of support will also be in place to assist with the use of this funding. This includes a new framework of practice examples published on Education Scotland's National Improvement Hub; work with the Education Endowment Foundation; and a series of regional events to provide:

- direct access to research and advice and guidance on practice;
- an opportunity to hear from colleagues from across Scotland on their work to close the equity gap; and
- a chance for some early work on school planning for this funding.

More details of [School Level Allocations](#)

## **Early Years Provision**

Edinburgh Early Years has been selected by the Scottish Government as one of the first three locations to trial an increase in the flexibility, quality and quantity of provision available, moving towards 1140 hours.

Edinburgh's proposal is to extend two nursery settings of Early Learning and Childcare provision within the city, with the establishment of a nature kindergarten. Children from Craigentenny and Ferryhill nursery classes will receive half of their entitlement within their nursery setting and half in a nature kindergarten setting, receiving Early Learning and Childcare from 8.30-3.30 daily from January to June 2017.

A class from Craigentenny nursery attended the official launch with Mark McDonald, Minister for Childcare and Early Years.

## **Business Support in Schools**

Budget support savings across the Council identified in September 2015 have resulted in a reduced reduction being applied to schools. This year the savings applied to school business support is limited to 5.8% instead of the expected 20% in 2017/18.

## **Jazz in Schools Project**

The Arts and Creative Learning Team is working with the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival to develop opportunities for schools. The potential for making a joint funding application is currently being explored. It is likely to focus on year round activity in schools, ultimately linking to the Jazz Festival during the summer holidays. The Edinburgh Schools Jazz Ensemble, which is part of the Instrumental Music Service, already has a good partnership with the Festival and proposals will build on this and with emerging school jazz groups. Part of the proposals will be to focus activity on holidays. While a joint application is being developed, the Arts and Creative Learning Team and the Jazz Festival have committed to exploring ways to offer some initial jazz activity for schools.

More information on [Making free childcare more flexible](#)

For more information contact:  
[Linda.Lees@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Lees@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## Youth Work Strategy

Youth and children's work plays a crucial role in supporting many of our children and young people to achieve their full potential. The City of Edinburgh Council therefore welcomes and supports the launch of a co-produced Youth and Children's Work Strategy for Edinburgh. The strategy has been developed by the Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector providers of youth and children's work. It provides a potential framework for the delivery of children and young people's services, requiring statutory and voluntary providers to actively listen and involve children and young people in the shaping of services, whilst improving collaborative working to maximise the impact of available resources in order to offer better opportunities and outcomes for our young people.

A formal launch event is being organised at the City Chambers, Business Centre for Tuesday 21 March 2017.

## Committee Decisions Update

[The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 19 June 2014](#) agreed increased monitoring for the dissemination and implementation of committee decisions by directorates.

Since the last update on committee decisions (October 2016) the Education, Children and Families Committee has taken 15 decisions which are not required to be reported back to committee. 12 decisions have been acted upon and are considered closed. The remaining three are ongoing and an update is provided below:

11.10.16 - Improving Support for Children and Young People in Need in Edinburgh – Consultation on a Proposal to Close Panmure	To approve the re-investment of £200k in the continued development of enhanced provision in school clusters for children and young people	Subject to result of consultation.
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View the [Youth Work Strategy](#)

For further information:

Ross Murray, Governance Officer

0131 469 3870

[Ross.Murray@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Ross.Murray@edinburgh.gov.uk)

[Education, Children and Families Committee Decisions – July 2015 – July 2016](#)

St Ann's Special School	with social, emotional and behavioural needs attending mainstream schools in the City of Edinburgh.	
13.12.16 - Youth Work Funding 2017 - 2019	To approve that in 2018/19, the grant award to each of the eight organisations be reduced by 20% to create a budget for universal youth work to be distributed by PB in each locality. In addition, £60,000 be made available citywide for distribution by PB, as in 2017/18.	Ongoing.
13.12.16 - Youth Work Funding 2017 - 2019	To approve that from 2019/20 the entire budget for youth work be distributed through PB. The allocation to each locality should be based on identified need, as set out in Table 2 of the Acting Executive Director's report.	Ongoing.