

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Present

Councillors Day (Convener), Fullerton (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Aldridge, Bridgman, Cairns (substituting for Councillor Lunn), Child, Bill Cook (substituting for Councillor Austin Hart), Nick Cook, Corbett, Jackson, Keil (substituting for Councillor Redpath), Key, Lewis, Main, Milligan, Munro, Robson, Rust and Tymkewycz.

Added members for Education matters

Marie Allan, Allan Crosbie and Alexander Ramage.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 13 December 2016 as a correct record subject to item 10 decision (3) being amended to read as follows: "To report to Committee within two cycles on how additional support needs would be met to ensure that children with complex needs being referred from breakfast clubs to universal provision and those accessing the service for the first time in the future would have their needs met."

2. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period to June 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period to June 2017.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

3. Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log – March 2017

The Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log for March 2017 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of actions 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 21 and 30.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log – 7 March 2017, submitted.)

4. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin March 2017

The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for March 2017 was presented.

Willy Barr (Citadel Youth Centre) and Dot Horne (6VT) provided an overview of the Youth Work Strategy.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To thank Willy Barr (Citadel Youth Centre) and Dot Horne (6VT – Youth Cafe) for their contribution.

(Reference – Business Bulletin – 7 March 2017, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Rust declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Chair of the Jazz and Blues Festival.

Councillor Fullerton declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board Member of the Jazz and Blues Festival.

Councillor Milligan declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board Member of the Jazz and Blues Festival.

5. Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Update

Details were provided as to how Communities and Families input into the asset sections of the emerging Locality Improvement Plans would be developed before being reported back to the Committee for consideration.

Approval was also sought for the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families to progress a statutory consultation for the replacement of St Crispin's Special School.

Decision

- 1) To note the update on the schools and lifelong learning estate and the intention to carry out a strategic review to inform the Communities and Families input into the asset sections of emerging Locality Improvement Plans.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families to progress a statutory consultation for the final Wave 3 schools infrastructure project to replace St Crispin's Special School.

- 3) To offer the opportunity to Boroughmuir and James Gillespie's High Schools to take part in working groups to contribute towards the June 2017 report to the Education, Children and Families Committee.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016 (item 6); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Allan Crosbie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a teacher at James Gillespie's High School.

Councillor Main declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the parent of a child at James Gillespie's High School

6. Strategic Management of School Places

Details were provided on the expected Primary 1 (P1) and Secondary 1 (S1) admissions for August 2017. An update on recommendations from the Short Life Member Officer Group: School Admissions/Appeals; including data relating to out of catchment requests, appeals lodged, cases granted and cases won on appeal; was also submitted.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Reserved Places Policy (detailed in the appendix to the report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families) subject to the policy being reviewed in March 2018.
- 2) To note the intention to prioritise baptised Roman Catholic pupils into 14 primary schools and into Holy Rood RC High School.
- 3) To note the intention to reserve one place per 60 pupils for the S1 intake.
- 4) To request an update report on the 2017/18 Admissions and Appeal Process in December 2017.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 24 May 2016 (item 11); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

7. Update on Attainment in City of Edinburgh Schools 2015-16

An overview of attainment in City of Edinburgh schools for the year 2015-16 was provided. Measures used for ages 3 to 15 included standardised assessments in reading and mathematics and Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels for early to fourth for reading, writing and mathematics. For the Senior Phase (S4-S6), new national benchmarking measures from the Scottish Government's Insight tool had been used to analyse performance. There continued to be improvements in educational attainment in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the continued improvements in education attainment in City of Edinburgh schools.
- 2) To note the continued hard work of pupils, staff and parents underpinning the successful implementation of the new national qualifications, improved Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) attainment and Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) results within a context of national change and challenging local circumstances.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 3 March 2015 (item 7); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

8. Scottish Attainment Challenge

An update on progress and impact in the eight primary schools (Canal View, Castleview, Clovenstone, Craigroyston, Niddrie Mill, Sighthill, St Catherine's RC and St Francis' RC) and four secondary schools (Castlebrae, Craigroyston, Wester Hailes Education Centre and Holy Rood RC) in Edinburgh that had been funded by the Scottish Government through the Scottish Attainment Challenge was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note progress and the impact on the five key priorities identified by the Scottish Government in the City of Edinburgh Primary schools identified.
- 2) To note the interventions in place in City of Edinburgh secondary schools to address the five priorities.
- 3) To note the commitment of officers from Communities and Families supporting the implementation and delivery of the Attainment Challenge in 12 schools (eight primary schools and four secondary schools).
- 4) To ask the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families to report back to a future meeting of the Committee on the measurement, impact and sustainability of projects.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2016 (item 10); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

9. Update on Positive Action Funding in Primary Schools

An update regarding the allocation of positive action funding across City of Edinburgh primary schools to ensure the most effective targeting of funding to those children most in need was provided.

Decision

- 1) To request a further report detailing the impact of the funding for the 20 positive actions schools.

- 2) To agree that further work be undertaken to ensure that positive action funding was allocated to those pupils most in need.
- 3) To note the contents of the report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2016 (item 9); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

10. Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport

An update on the work of the Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit (S&OLU) to ensure that Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS) were well connected and embedded within all City of Edinburgh schools and provided pathways to external clubs and communities was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note that each school cluster would plan Physical Education as outlined in the Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS) cluster guidance, in partnership with Active Schools.
- 2) To note that an integrated PEPAS plan would be managed, resourced and delivered.

(Reference –report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

11. Additional Support Needs and Special Schools Update 2016-17

As previously requested by the Committee, an update was provided on progress on performance and planning over the previous 12 months in relation to the provision of services for children and young people with disabilities.

Decision

- 1) To note and welcome the continued progress in inclusive practice in schools and its contribution to meeting the needs of all learners, raising attainment and closing the gap.
- 2) To note the progress in planning for the future of special schools including:
 - 2.1) the consultation on the proposed closure of Panmure St Ann's;
 - 2.2) the successful outcome of the feasibility study on the future of Oaklands and Braidburn Schools;
 - 2.3) the valuable contributions made by parents, school staff and partner agencies to the successful outcome of the feasibility study;
 - 2.4) progress in planning for the new St Crispin's and its key role in the sustainability of authority's provision for children with autism.

- 3) To approve the key areas identified as next steps for improvement as follows:
 - 3.1) improve the experiences and outcomes for children with autism, including completion of the review of special school provision and consultation and planning for the new St Crispin's;
 - 3.2) drive forward inclusive practice to enable the needs of all learners to be met, raising attainment and closing the gap;
 - 3.3) test and evaluate new sustainable improvement models for English as an Additional Language support;
 - 3.4) create dynamic networks of support at school, cluster, locality and citywide levels to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people with additional support needs;
 - 3.5) redesign provision for social, emotional and behaviour support needs including a new procurement framework;
 - 3.6) develop the inclusive learning culture with schools, services, clusters, localities and other authorities to improve outcomes and promote best value.
- 4) That future update reports on Additional Support Needs and Special Schools include additional data relating to ongoing initiatives.
- 5) To welcome the work of the Inclusive Practice Working Group in developing a shared vision for inclusion, and to request that the shared vision and recommendations were reported back to Committee once the Group had considered the results of the consultation.

(References – minutes of the Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2016 (item 16) and 11 October 2016 (items 5 and 6); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

12. Communities and Families Policy and Guidance on Sponsorship

As previously requested by the Committee, a revised policy and procedures on sponsorship targeted at primary and secondary school pupils through events, visits and partnership working was submitted for approval.

Decision

- 1) To approve the revised policy and guidance for Communities and Families establishments on sponsorship as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families subject to the following amendments:

- 1.1) Add the following wording to the checklist on page 6 – “Is the sponsorship in writing?”
- 1.2) Amend the wording at paragraph 3.3 to read “Examples of sponsorship that would be likely to be of concern would be sponsorships that promote a brand of alcohol, a political party or a company involved in animal testing.”

2) To review the policy in March 2018.

(References – minutes of the Education, Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016 (item 17); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

13. Communities and Families Small Grants to Third Parties 2017/18 Proposals for Expenditure

Details were provided of the recommended awards to organisations who had submitted small grant applications to Communities and Families for 2017/18. The awards were made for one year and were for a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £10,000.

Decision

To approve the awards to organisations as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 11 October 2016 (item 7); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

14. Support to Children and Young People with Disabilities: Annual Progress Report

An update was provided on progress on performance and planning over the previous 12 months in relation to the provision of services for children and young people with disabilities.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made within the social work services for children and young people with disabilities.
- 2) To note that a further report on progress would be presented to Committee in March 2018.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2016 (item 16); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

15. Parental Engagement: Partnership Schools

An update was provided on the Partnership Schools Project aimed at developing school, family and community partnerships to support school improvement.

Decision

To note the content of the report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

16. Communities and Families Revenue Monitoring 2016/17 – Month Eight Position

The projected month eight revenue budget monitoring position for the Communities and Families directorate was outlined. The directorate was continuing to manage significant levels of budget pressure in many areas of the service. The total unfunded budget pressure was currently £6.2m. Mitigating management actions had been identified to fully address the budget pressures, resulting in a net residual balanced budget position for 2016/17.

Decision

- 1) To note the balanced budget position at month eight.
- 2) To note that approved savings in 2016/17 totalled £12.9m; the savings programme was being closely monitored with action taken to address any highlighted risks of non-delivery.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016 (item 19); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

17. Recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee – 24 February 2017

The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (SWCRC) held on 24 February 2017 on a complaint against the Communities and Families Directorate were submitted.

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee.

(Reference – report by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee, submitted.)

18. Social Work Complaints Review Committee – 1 March 2017

The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (SWCRC) held on 1 March 2017 on a complaint against the Communities and Families Directorate were submitted. The SWCRC had partially upheld the complaint for the following reason:

- The Committee believed that a Social Work review would have taken place even if a complaint had not been received. However, communication from the Social Work Services on this had been confusing and misleading.

The Communities and Families response to the decision taken by the SWCRC was outlined.

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the SWCRC and note the response from the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families.

(References – reports by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee and the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, both submitted.)