



Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 15 August 2017

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice-Convener Councillor Alison Dickie</p> 	<p>Cllr Ian Perry (Convener) Cllr Alison Dickie (Vice-Convener) Cllr Eleanor Bird Cllr Lewis Ritchie Cllr Maureen Child Cllr Callum Laidlaw Cllr Jason Rust Cllr Stephanie Smith Cllr Mary Campbell Cllr Gavin Corbett Cllr Louise Young Cllr Adam McVey (ex officio) Cllr Cammy Day (ex officio)</p> <p>For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rabbi David Rose (religious representative) Dr Rita Welsh (religious representative) Vacancy (parent representative, non voting)</p>	<p>Lesley Birrell Committee Officer Tel: 529 4240</p> <p>Alasdair Oliphant Departmental Adviser to the Convener and the Vice-Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>

New Education Convener and Vice-Convener

The Education, Children and Families Committee on 15 August 2017 will be the first meeting of the committee under the new administration, following the Local Government Elections on 4 May.

Councillor Ian Perry was formally appointed as the new Education Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council meeting on 22 June 2017 and now chairs the committee. Councillor Alison Dickie was appointed as Vice-Convener.

The committee membership is smaller than before, with 11 elected members, three religious representatives and a non-voting parent representative. The committee will meet every 8 weeks.

Education Governance Review

On 15 June 2017, the Deputy First Minister announced the Scottish Government response to the Education Governance Review consultation alongside the publication of *Education Governance: Next Steps* and a consultation on education funding.

The announcement covers a series of reforms which have wide-ranging implications for local authorities in terms of accountability, policy, delivery and finance.

The changes will be made statutory in an Education Bill introduced in 2018.

Currently, like all Scottish Councils, The City of Edinburgh Council has the statutory responsibility for the provision and delivery of education, for performance and improvement of individual schools as well as the cumulative authority, as the employer of all staff within a school setting.

COSLA, who provide political leadership on national issues for local government, are now seeking to respond to these proposed reforms. Over the coming months COSLA officials will be seeking clarity from Scottish Government on how they will be a partner in

Scottish Government information on [Next Steps](#)

education moving forward, and how democratic accountability will be maintained.

Further updates will continue to be made available through the Business Bulletin and the issue will also be kept under review at future meetings of the Consultative Committee with Parents.

Pupil Equity Fund

As mentioned in the last Business Bulletin, Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) 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. This new national funding will reach every local authority in Scotland and be distributed based on the number of pupils in P1-S3 known to be eligible and registered for free school meals. The Scottish Government has committed this funding over the next five years as part of the overall £750m Attainment Scotland Fund. Edinburgh schools have been allocated over £7 million in total for 2017/18.

As a Council, we have long been committed to the same goal and already have many initiatives in place aiming to give all children and young people equitable opportunities to achieve success in literacy, numeracy and health and well-being, all PEF priority areas. The funding will enhance and strengthen the work already being done in Edinburgh schools on a daily basis to close the attainment gap and change the future for children and young people living in poverty. It is anticipated our schools will have their funding in place from the start of the new session in August.

To ensure schools are best placed to hit the ground running, a launch event for City of Edinburgh schools took place at Murrayfield stadium on 25 April. There were keynote speakers, an education village and workshops, and this provided a fantastic opportunity for head teachers and other education professionals to meet and discuss how the funding can be used creatively and effectively to help close the attainment gap for those living in poverty.

Other supports the Council has already put in place for schools with their PEF planning include a very well-received booklet, *Pupil Equity Funding: a CEC*

[Details of School Level Allocations](#)

guide to getting started which gives a comprehensive introduction on key principles, practical steps and links to what works to close the gap. Extensive local operational guidance, based on national guidance for schools, but set within the Council frameworks for HR and procurement for example, has also been drawn up and work will continue to support schools on this throughout the year.

Schools have also now drawn up their individual or cluster PEF plans, with support from Council officers and the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor for Edinburgh.

New Replacement Queensferry High School

The new replacement Queensferry High School is currently being developed through Hub South East Scotland on behalf of the Council. There are Planning Regulation requirements for major planning applications to engage in a minimum 12-week consultation period prior to formal submission of the planning application.

The pre-planning consultation period will share with the local community the progress on work carried out to date, the rationale behind initial design concepts and how the impact on the surrounding area has been considered in these proposals.

There is still an opportunity for people to give their views on the [pre-planning consultation](#) and feedback and comments can be made up to Friday 11 August 2017.

Putting Children and Young People's Rights at the Heart of Planning

Over 40 children and young people and 30 senior staff took part in a Scottish Government funded pilot to put children's rights at the heart of planning. The pilot was developed with the Children's Parliament.

The young people took part in an initial event on what they need to be healthy, happy and safe at home, school and in the community. They considered what gets in the way of this and what should be done about it. The children had all been involved with the Children's Parliament and the young people were

from Young Edinburgh Action.

Adult duty bearers from the Council, NHS, Voluntary Sector, Police Scotland and the Fire and Rescue Service addressed the same questions at a second event.

Both groups then worked together on these themes at a third event. This ended with adults making commitments in two statements: 'I can...' and 'I will...'

Scotland's Children's Commissioner, Bruce Adamson, was an enthusiastic participant in the session.

It was based on adapting the SNAP (Scottish National Action Plan for Human Rights) model towards engagement with children and young people. It will be reported to the Scottish Government as something which others can use.

It has started a positive open dialogue and a fresh approach to involving children and young people in future service design and planning – including setting the 2050 City Vision and Future Schools.

Supply Staff

Some changes have been made to managing the allocation of supply staff in the city and this is now being run by the Council instead of Adecco. Head teachers have been involved in developing new ways of working which will hopefully improve the service for schools and provide the Council with better information about the nature and volume of demand for supply cover across the city. Colleagues have also been encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions about the changes to ensure we get the best out of the new system.

School Session Dates - Consultation

Session dates for 2018/19 have now been agreed and are available on the Council website.

Committee previously agreed to consult with parents/carers, pupils and staff on criteria for future school session dates. Results from a consultation in February 2015 informed session dates for the

[School Term Dates 2018/19](#)

following two years, but Committee agreed that the next consultation should include consideration of potentially more radical changes to the school session, including discussions of the merits of a four-term year and a later summer holiday.

Questions have now been drafted and discussed with the Consultative Committee with Parents and the Local Negotiating Committee (Teachers), and a survey will be issued early in the autumn.

The responses will be analysed and brought back to Committee by the end of the year, along with proposed session dates for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.