

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 15 August 2017

Present

Councillors Perry (Convener), Dickie (Vice-Convener), Bird, Mary Campbell, Child, Corbett, Laidlaw, Rust, Smith and Young.

Added members for Education matters

Marie Allan and Rabbi David Rose.

1. Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate – Strategic Review

1.1 Deputation – Queensferry High School Parent Council

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Mark Elder on behalf of the parents of Queensferry High School Parent Council in relation to the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families on the Strategic Review of the Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate. The deputation highlighted the following:

- The detailed statutory consultation paper which was due to be submitted to Committee in December 2017 was not soon enough.
- Options regarding West Edinburgh High School, Balerno High School and Currie High School were due to be explored as part of one informal consultation process, but concerns were raised that this would cause unnecessary delays for the progress of the West Edinburgh High School development.
- Concerns that the number of pupils in the catchment area of the new Queensferry High School would be higher than the capacity of 1200 pupils by August 2022 (two years after the opening of the new school), therefore the West Edinburgh High School was required to be open before the target date of 2023.
- Officers had previously confirmed that the minimum time required from design to completion of a new school would be four years, however given previous experiences with new school projects, it is possible that the completion of the West Edinburgh High School would be after the target date.
- That land and funding had not yet been secured for the development of the West Edinburgh High School led to further concerns that the opening of the school in 2023 would not be possible.

The deputation requested the Committee to consider the following:

- That the detailed statutory consultation paper would be submitted to Committee in October 2017.
- That a separate consultation exercise would be carried out for the West Edinburgh High School.
- That the development of the new schools would be dealt with as a priority.

1.2 Report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families

An update was provided on the progress of the strategic review of the school and lifelong learning estate which had been undertaken as agreed at the meeting of the Committee in March 2017.

It was proposed to carry out informal consultations in West and South West Edinburgh regarding secondary Gaelic Medium Education. The outcomes of these informal consultations would be presented to the Committee in December 2017 to allow time for the consultations to be fully completed.

The formation of a working group with staff and parents at Castlebrae High School was recommended and a draft consultation paper was scheduled to be presented to the Committee in October.

It was also proposed to carry out feasibility studies at Boroughmuir and Trinity High Schools to identify accommodation solutions.

Decision

- 1) To agree that engagement with the school community to inform the design for a replacement Castlebrae High School on the site identified in Craigmillar Town Centre be progressed and that a statutory consultation paper for this proposal prepared for consideration by the Education, Children and Families Committee in October 2017.
- 2) To agree that informal consultation be progressed with local elected members, school communities and other key stakeholders in west and south west Edinburgh to inform a detailed statutory consultation paper which would be submitted to Committee for consideration in December 2017.
- 3) To agree that an update on the progress of the informal consultation process would be submitted to Committee in October 2017.
- 4) To agree that informal consultation be progressed with elected members, school communities and other key stakeholders on the future provision of Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh to inform a detailed statutory consultation paper which would be submitted to Committee for consideration in December 2017.
- 5) To agree that a feasibility study be progressed with colleagues in housing to consider the possibility of additional capacity for Boroughmuir High School being provided on the India Quay site.

- 6) To agree the Wave 4 feasibility study for Trinity Academy should be extended to consider detailed design of sports facilities for the school beside the playing fields adjacent to Bangholm Recreation Centre.
- 7) To note that the Communities and Families senior management team would continue to engage with the Scottish Government Education Infrastructure Unit and the Scottish Futures Trust with a view to the preparation of a strategic submission to the next Schools for the Future (or equivalent) funding programme.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 7 March 2017 (item 5); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Young declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a parent of a child attending one of the schools involved in the consultation.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 7 March 2017 as a correct record.

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

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

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period from October to December 2017.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

4. Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log – August 2017

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

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of actions 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 22.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

5. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin

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

Decision

- 1) To note that the Executive Director for Communities and Families intended to submit a report to the October meeting of the Committee on the response to the consultation on education funding together with an update on the response to the proposed Education Bill.
- 2) To offer briefings to political groups on the Education Governance Review.
- 3) To note that Individual School Plans relating to the Pupil Equity Fund would be made available to Committee members when they were available.
- 4) To otherwise note the remaining items detailed in the business bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted.)

6. The Edinburgh Children's Partnership – Children's Services Plan 2017-2020

The Children's Services Plan was presented to the Committee. The Plan was jointly produced by the Council and NHS with contributions from other partners including Police Scotland and the voluntary sector, and outlined the Council's ambitions for children's services for the next three years. The focus of the plan was laid out in the Children and Young People's Act 2014 and the accompanying statutory guidance.

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership had set up a project team in 2016 which had looked at available data and research and analysed these to inform the plan.

The main aims of the Plan were to empower children, young people and families, address issues of inequality, ensure children's rights were respected and to report on this on an annual basis and to ensure the work was integrated and underpinned by Getting it Right for Every Child principles.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Children's Partnership's Children's Services Plan for 2017 to 2020.
- 2) To arrange a workshop to be held before Christmas 2017 with relevant agencies, young people and key stakeholders to discuss the Plan in more detail.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Ritchie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a non-Executive Director of Children's Hearings Scotland.

7. Educational Attainment in Primary and Secondary Schools, 2016

Information was provided on levels of educational attainment in schools for the academic session 2015/2016. The information had been gathered from the results of standardised tests and Curriculum for Excellence levels.

The main improvements included reading and mathematics from Primaries 4 to 7, and literacy and numeracy at SCQF levels 4 and 5.

Decision

- 1) To note the continued improvements in educational attainment in Edinburgh schools.
- 2) To note the wide range of strategies that are deployed to raise attainment.
- 3) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment/improvements in performance.
- 4) To note the continued hard work of pupils, staff and parents to support the successful implementation of the new national qualifications, in particular, the implementation of the new Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Highers and Advanced Highers.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families - submitted)

8. Positive Action Funding in Primary Schools

An update was provided on the steps taken to improve performance using Positive Action Funding and the Council's ongoing commitment to improving the performance of schools.

Future reports would include self-evaluation information with regards to learning and teaching and raising attainment.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To request a further report detailing the improvement in attainment to date based on 2016/17 data when it became available and identifying actions to be taken to ensure improvements in performance.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 7 March 2017 (item 9); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

9. Appointments to Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families, Consultative Committee with Parents and Working Groups 2017/2018

The Committee was asked to appoint membership of its Sub-Committees and Working Groups for the year 2017/18.

Decision

- 1) To approve the membership of the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families as detailed in Appendix 1 to this minute.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Perry as Convener of the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families.
- 3) To approve the membership of the Consultative Committee with Parents as detailed in Appendix 2 to this minute.
- 4) To appoint Councillor Dickie as Convener of the Consultative Committee with Parents.
- 5) To approve the membership of the Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group as detailed in Appendix 3 to this minute.
- 6) To appoint Councillor Dickie as Convener of the Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group.
- 7) To approve the membership of Duncan Place Working Group as detailed in Appendix 4 to this minute.
- 8) To approve the membership of the Gaelic Implementation Steering Group as detailed in Appendix 5 to this minute.

(Reference - report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

10. Transfer of the Management of Secondary Schools Sports Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure

Progress was reported on the transfer of the management of secondary school sports facilities to Edinburgh Leisure.

The management of sports facilities had been transferred from the Council to Edinburgh Leisure at James Gillespie's High School, Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School to date, with the remaining schools' sports facilities' management expected to be transferred by early 2018.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made to date on the transfer of management of school sports facilities from the Council to Edinburgh Leisure.
- 2) To note that officials from the Council and Edinburgh Leisure were working together to address the issues raised in the transfer process to ensure that the remaining schools were transferred to Edinburgh Leisure in a timely fashion.
- 3) To note that the PPP schools would be prioritised for transfer whilst further work was completed on the issues raised in the Executive Director's report.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 4 October 2016 (item ...); Education, Children and Families Committee 24 May 2016 (item 22); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

11. Governance Arrangements and Council Support to Community Centre Management Committees

An update was presented on the planning of future governance arrangements for community centres following a service review which has resulted in the creation of the Lifelong Learning Service. Reduced resources and the new approach to service delivery which had been adopted meant that the current model of community centre management would be required to change.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To call for a report clarifying the roles and responsibilities of Lifelong Learning Development Officers, their relationships with the communities they would serve and a timescale for the delivery of operational plans.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families - submitted)

12. Early Learning and Childcare Strategy

A report detailing the national priorities in early learning and childcare was presented. The report also highlighted the progress which had been made by the Council in respect of implementing the requirements of relevant legislation.

The report identified the key achievements and areas which would be prioritised for the development of the service.

Decision

To note the report and that a further report would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee in October 2017.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

13. Early Years Disability Services Grant Programme 2017-2019 – Update

An update was provided on the progress made by The Yard in setting up a new support service for families with children with a disability under the age of five. The Yard was a community service which received an award as part of the Children and Families Main Grants Programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the work undertaken by The Yard Adventure Centre with parents to ensure a smooth transfer of service.
- 2) To note the comments by parents, which were generally positive, about their experience to date.
- 3) To note that the work undertaken by The Yard with the grant award would continue to be monitored by Communities and Families.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families - submitted)

14. Looked After Children: Transformation Programme Progress Report

An update was provided on the progress of the Looked After Children Transformation Programme which aimed to move towards preventative services and to reduce the need for children to be looked after. The report outlined the progress made between March 2013 and March 2017. Progress had been made previously however more work would be completed to reduce the use of residential care placements and the percentage of independent foster placements. A new strategy would be developed and implemented to reduce the number of children who require to become looked after.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made to date against the starting position at March 2013 as set out in appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To note the actions in progress to deliver further improvements from the early intervention investment approved in the 2017/18 budget.
- 3) To note that the next update would be provided in December 2017.
- 4) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Ritchie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a non-Executive Director of Children's Hearings Scotland.

15. Choose Youth Work: Youth Work Participatory Budgeting – Phase 1

The first phase of the participatory budgeting allocation of funding had been completed and the report outlined the process, the awards which had been granted and a review of the lessons which had been learned from the process. These lessons would be used to inform the process for Phase 2 of the programme beginning.

Decision

- 1) To note the awards made in paragraph 3.7 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.
- 2) To note the lessons learnt from this exercise and to be implemented in phase two.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families - submitted)

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families

Membership - 8 Members and 1 Religious Representative

(2 SNP, 2 Conservative, 2 Labour, 1 Green, 1 SLD and 1 Religious Representative)

Councillor Ian Perry (Convener)

Councillor Eleanor Bird

Councillor Mary Campbell

Councillor Maureen Child

Councillor Alison Dickie

Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Councillor Jason Rust

Councillor Louise Young

Religious Representative TBC

Remit

Power is delegated to the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families to:

- provide oversight of the quality of education and care experiences for young people in the City of Edinburgh by scrutinising the reports and follow up actions of Education Scotland inspections in schools
- Consider an annual report on Care Inspectorate inspections in early years provision
- Consider individual reports on Care Inspectorate inspections in residential schools, care services for children and local authority reviews of service areas, establishments and units
- Monitor the implementation of initiatives relating to quality improvement and assurance, and attainment and achievement
- Maintain an overview of the implementation of national and local policies specifically related to quality standards by officers, establishments and services
- Contribute to the support and challenge agenda within the context of establishment plans
- Celebrate the success of establishments, units, teams and the service including recognising items of good practice

Consultative Committee with Parents

Consultative Committee with Parents

Membership - 7 members

(Convener and Vice-Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee and 2 Conservative members, 1 SNP member, 1 Green member, 1 SLD member)

Councillor Alison Dickie (Convener)

Councillor Eleanor Bird

Councillor Mary Campbell

Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Councillor Ian Perry

Councillor Stephanie Smith

Councillor Louise Young

Other Members

Three parent representatives from each of the Locality Groups

One parent representative from the Citywide Special Schools Group

One parent representative from the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Forum

One head teacher from each sector on a rota basis

One representative from the National Parent Forum

One representative from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Remit

The Consultative Committee with Parents is a forum which:

- provides discussion and consultation with parents on citywide and national issues
- provides a parent perspective at local and national level
- identifies common areas of discussion
- makes a recommendation to the Council on the appointment of a parent representative (non-voting) to the Education Children and Families Committee
- ensures parent groups eg. National Parent Forum and Scottish Parent Teacher Council are represented
- communicates with neighbourhood groups and the wider parent councils

Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group

Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group

Membership - 8 members and 1 Religious Representative

(Convener and Vice-Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee and 2 Conservative members, 1 SNP member, 1 Labour, 1 Green member, 1 SLD member and 1 Religious Representative)

Councillor Alison Dickie (Convener)

Councillor Eleanor Bird

Councillor Maureen Child

Councillor Gavin Corbett

Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Councillor Ian Perry

Councillor Jason Rust

Councillor Louise Young

Religious Representative TBC

Other Partner Members

Two representatives from NHS Lothian

One representative from Police Scotland

One representative from Third Sector

Remit

The remit of the Corporate Parenting Member Officer Group is to:

- establish a common understanding of the factors which lead to poor outcomes for looked after children
- agree a clear set of outcomes for looked after children
- set up a robust scrutiny mechanism of the outcomes for looked after children
- ensure that looked after children are considered in all policy initiatives
- have an overview of all recommendations in reports on looked after children
- ensure that looked after children are a high priority for all Council departments and partner agencies
- communicate with looked after children
- convey celebrations of success
- identify initiatives to progress the outcomes of looked after children
- support foster carers and kinship carers

Duncan Place Working Group

Duncan Place Working Group

Membership - Local Ward Members (Leith Ward)

Councillor Chas Booth

Councillor Adam McVey

Councillor Gordon Munro

Remit

The Working Group's establishment and remit arose from the following decision by the Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015:

- 1) To note that it was not possible to progress with the demolition of the existing entire Duncan Place building as had been previously approved.
- 2) To approve the recommended way forward to provide replacement accommodation as set out in paragraph 3.17 of the report by the Executive Director of Communities and Families.
- 3) To request that a further report be provided to a future Committee meeting on the outcome of the discussions with the local community regarding the possibility of community asset transfer of the part of the existing Duncan Place building which would remain.
- 4) **To agree that a working group be established involving locally elected members, relevant officers and the Duncan Place Management Committee to take forward the discussions outlined in paragraph 3.17 (ii) of the report by the Executive Director ([Link to Report – Duncan Place and Leith Primary School](#))**

Gaelic Implementation Steering Group

Gaelic Implementation Steering Group

Membership – 5 Members

(1 SNP, 1 Conservative, 1 Labour, 1 Green, 1 SLD)

Councillor Chas Booth

Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Councillor Ian Perry

Councillor Lewis Ritchie

Councillor Louise Young

Remit

To provide a forum for the City of Edinburgh Council to engage with key stakeholders on development of the Gaelic Language Plan.