

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 10 October 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</p> <p>For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rabbi David Rose (religious representative) Dr Rita Welsh (religious representative) Alexander Ramage (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 Queensferry High School

Following the pre-planning consultation period, a formal planning application for a new Queensferry High School has now been submitted. Having listened to feedback from the local community, the City of Edinburgh Council has been able to increase the number of lanes for the swimming pool from four to six. There was strong feedback from local people about adding two more lanes and making these changes demonstrates the Council's willingness to listen to their voices.

In addition to the six-lane swimming pool, there will also be a larger games hall, new fitness centre, dance studio and floodlit 3G and 4G pitches, all of which will be available for use by the local community.

Queensferry has an expanding population with a need for improved sporting facilities and the plans for the new high school will place it at the very heart of the local community. Now that the planning application has been submitted, there is still more time for public feedback before it goes before the planning committee early next year.

Education Buildings Scotland Awards

A number of Edinburgh school projects have been shortlisted in the Education Buildings Scotland Awards, the winners of which will be announced in November.

Edinburgh's new build nurseries design project has been shortlisted in three separate categories. This project has looked at both internal and external spaces and has used research to create a calming and nurturing environment with white walls, wooden furniture and natural colours for soft furnishings. This design is being rolled out both to future new buildings and also for any refreshes in existing early years settings.

Liberton High School's Inspiring Learning Space that has been designed to encourage active learning has also been shortlisted along with the St Crispin's Special School Refurbished Classroom, which aims to create a calming environment for children with autism.

James Gillespie's Campus has also been shortlisted for project of the year.

Active Schools

Active Schools participation levels have increased by 35 per cent over the last five years with 482,414 visits recorded during the last year.

Visits by pupils involved in participant sessions have risen by 125,657 from 356,757 visits in 2011/12, and these new figures also show an eight per cent increase compared to last year.

The number of people delivering these sessions also increased to 1,600, which is an increase of 31 per cent, with 72% of these being volunteers. Active Schools Edinburgh saw an increase in the number of volunteers recruited to 1160 from 900 in the previous year.

The Active Schools team who deliver the Active Schools programme in partnership with sportscotland across the City of Edinburgh Council, have been delivering opportunities for school pupils to get involved in sport and physical activity for more than a decade.

These increases are really encouraging and show how much effort is being put into increasing opportunities for young people to get physically fit and interested in taking up sports outside of school.

Over 17,500 pupils now take part in extracurricular clubs and around 450 senior pupils lead or help with these sessions. The annual Games @ The Hub event also goes from strength to strength and this year saw over 1,300 pupils from across the city take part in numerous different sporting activities.

First Minister visit to Castlebrae High School

The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon has visited Castlebrae Community High School to meet with teachers and pupils involved in a three-year Festival project.

The International Festival's arts residency at Castlebrae is a partnership between the school, the Festival and the City of Edinburgh Council. Over the last three years, pupils have been learning about all aspects of the International Festival through workshops, bespoke mentoring and work experience programmes.

These have highlighted the varied professional skillsets required in the delivery of events like the International Festival and included a specially developed Festivals and Events Management module which contributes towards pupils' National 5 qualification in 'Creative Industries'. In the culmination of this residency programme, the students got to put their experience into practice, assisting the Festival team in planning and running the venue in their school.

Craigour Park Primary School

Craigour Park Primary school has received an award from the First Minister in a nationwide competition to encourage Scottish children to foster a lifelong love of reading. The school won their award for their impressive approach to the Challenge, including innovative initiatives such as the Reading Radio, Family Bedtime Stories and parental involvement through family reading tasks, as well as lots of community and whole school engagement.

The school invited guest readers from the wider school community, such as the crossing patrol man and judo instructor, to show pupils that reading is something everyone enjoys. Photos of staff reading in unusual locations were also posted round the school and a home learning competition to design school reading mascots engaged families with the Challenge.

While the initial interest for the Challenge came from pupils who already enjoyed reading, the variety of

projects the school put in place has led to a much wider involvement from children who had not previously displayed an enthusiastic approach to reading.

Columba 1400

A group of 10 current and former looked after young people aged 16 to 20 who are in foster or residential care placements, or supported via Throughcare and Aftercare, along with four members of our staff undertook this year's Columba 1400 residential programme.

This is the second year the Council has run the programme, which involves three preparatory sessions in Edinburgh, a one week long residential in Staffin, Isle of Skye and three subsequent follow up sessions back in Edinburgh.

Columba 1400 is essentially a leadership programme intended to support young people and adults to develop their inner confidence and self-awareness. Although there are some outdoor based activities, the programme is essentially and "inward bound" experience. The full residential programme is not shared in advance to avoid preconceived ideas, so this does require a degree of leap of faith for the participants. The programmes are structured around participants individual and shared exploration of the key values of: Awareness, Focus, Creativity, Integrity, Perseverance and Service.

The expectation is that all participants, young people and adults undertake the programme on a level footing. For all, this means being emotionally open to self and others. This offers a unique opportunity and challenge for staff to work alongside young people to discover their own strengths and pathways forward as individuals and as a group.

Robert Owen Award for an Inspirational Educator

Warm congratulations go to Lindsey Watt, Headteacher, Castleview Primary School on receiving the Robert Owen Award from the Scottish Government. The Award was established to recognise the contribution of renowned educationalists across the world, whose work has

had significant impact and informed substantial education improvement activities in Scotland. The Award recognises Lindsey's hugely positive influence on Scottish education over many years, where she has provided outstanding and inspirational leadership for learning and continuously improved children's experiences, attainment and life-chances. Lindsey accepted her Award from John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills at the Scottish Learning Festival on 20 September.