

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 6 March 2018

Present:

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

Parent Representative

Alexander Ramage (non-voting)

1. Adverse Weather Conditions - Convener's Remarks

The Convener thanked all pupils, staff and parents for their help and cooperation during the recent adverse weather conditions. It was never an easy or popular decision for the Council to close schools but the safety of pupils, staff and parents was the most important thing.

2. Deputation – Trinity Academy

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Trinity Academy Parent Council in relation to Councillor Laidlaw's motion regarding Trinity Academy.

The deputation indicated that there still seemed to be a lack of commitment by the Council to invest in Trinity Academy. They highlighted the following three main issues - poor quality of facilities (especially for the physical education department), the poor condition of the school which uniquely combined a Victorian era block, a 1960's block and a 1990's block and finally rising school rolls.

The deputation requested that a detailed planning and business case be prepared as a matter of urgency to address the issues so that pupils at Trinity did not feel disadvantaged compared to pupils at other schools in the City.

3. Deputation – Drummond Community Campaign

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Drummond Community Campaign in respect of Gaelic Medium Education (GME) secondary provision at Drummond Community High School.

The deputation indicated that they had requested the deputation because of the informal consultation proposal to transfer secondary-level (GME) to Drummond which, in the longer term, could operate as a dedicated GME secondary school.

Their understanding was that at the engagement event on 27 February 2018, officers and councillors gave them a commitment that Drummond would not become a dedicated GME school and it would remain open to pupils from Broughton, Leith Walk and Abbeyhill Primary Schools. They welcomed this commitment and highlighted the following three requests – to learn from the informal consultation process, to look at all option for secondary GME provision not just Drummond, and to formalise the commitment.

To note that a report setting out all the proposed options for future provision of GME secondary education would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 22 May 2018.

4. Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Trinity Academy

The following motion by Councillor Laidlaw was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Committee:

Recognises the unacceptable suitability of the built facilities at Trinity Academy and the adverse building condition reports for Trinity Academy and Trinity Primary. Further recognises the complexity of the Trinity Academy/Trinity Primary site and accepts the additional work that is likely to be required to deliver a successful campus model, or to look at alternative solutions, in readiness for any Scottish Government funding scheme.”

Accordingly ask officers for a report in one cycle setting out the next steps in terms of a Business Case and detailed design work for each of:

- (a) Trinity Academy
- (b) A Trinity Academy/Trinity Primary Campus; and
- (c) Bangholm Gym and Pool facilities to support a secondary school of approximately 1200 roll.

The report should identify the resources required to progress each case.”

- moved by Councillor Laidlaw, seconded by Councillor Rust

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Laidlaw.

5. Motion by Councillor Miller – Central Library Daylight Impact Assessment

The following motion by Councillor Miller was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Committee:

Notes that the planned development of the Cowgate gap site to the rear of the Central Library may affect daylight enjoyed by library staff and users.

Calls for an independent daylight impact assessment report for the Central Library in one cycle, including but not limited to, recommendations on how to maintain lighting levels in the library.”

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Miller.

6. Child Poverty – School Uniform Grant

Financial options were presented for increasing the school clothing grant and how transaction applications could be streamlined and information processed to ensure that no eligible family missed out on the clothing grants and free school meals they were entitled to.

Motion

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To commend the excellent work outlined in Sections 3.1 and 3.9 of the report.
- 3) To agree to streamline the criteria for entitlement to a Clothing Grant by aligning it with eligibility for Free School Meals status, making the application process easier for families and ensuring a further 450 – 500 pupils access support
- 4) To agree that the primary school pupil entitlement was the same as the secondary school entitlement which will result in more efficient administrative processes and would provide additional support to around 3,600 families of primary school children
- 5) To agree to increase the clothing grant for all eligible pupils taking account of the financial options presented at 5.
- 6) To agree to implementation of a new transactions system which would allow the Authority to use housing benefits and council tax reduction data to identify eligible pupils and automatically make an award to families reducing the burden for parents/carers to go through duplicate application and verification processes (subject to information governance guidelines).

- 7) To note the Child Poverty Action Group estimate of £129.50 for school clothing and associated items and agree a further report for the Education, Children and Families meeting in May looking at options for and costs associated with meeting that higher figure; the report to also include information on the range of costs of school uniforms from outlets within the City of Edinburgh area.
- Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To approve the report's recommendations and additionally to note the Child Poverty Action Group estimate of £129.50 for school clothing and associated items and agree a further report for the Education, Children and Families meeting in May looking at options for and costs associated with meeting that higher figure including discussions with schools and Scottish Government on the extent to which a small part of Pupil Equity Funding could be earmarked for further support for school clothing in line with the core aims of the Pupil Equity Fund.

- Moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

Voting

For the motion: 6 votes

For the amendment: 5 votes

(For the motion - Councillors Bird, Child, Dickie, Howie, Perry and Young.
For the amendment - Councillors Campbell, Corbett, Laidlaw, Rust and Smith).

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To commend the excellent work outlined in Sections 3.1 and 3.9 of the report.
- 3) To agree to streamline the criteria for entitlement to a Clothing Grant by aligning it with eligibility for Free School Meals status, making the application process easier for families and ensuring a further 450 – 500 pupils access support
- 4) To agree that the primary school pupil entitlement was the same as the secondary school entitlement which will result in more efficient administrative processes and would provide additional support to around 3,600 families of primary school children
- 5) To agree to increase the clothing grant for all eligible pupils taking account of the financial options presented at 5.

- 6) To agree to implementation of a new transactions system which would allow the Authority to use housing benefits and council tax reduction data to identify eligible pupils and automatically make an award to families reducing the burden for parents/carers to go through duplicate application and verification processes (subject to information governance guidelines).
- 7) To note the Child Poverty Action Group estimate of £129.50 for school clothing and associated items and agree a further report for the Education, Children and Families meeting in May looking at options for and costs associated with meeting that higher figure; the report to also include information on the range of costs of school uniforms from outlets within the City of Edinburgh area.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee, 10 October 2017 (item 3); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

7. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 12 December 2017 as a correct record.

8. Education, Children and Families Committee - Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted)

9. Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log

The Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log for March 2018 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To close actions 10, 13, 17, 24 and 25.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log 6 March 2018, submitted)

10. Business Bulletin

The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for 6 March 2018 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin – 6 March 2018, submitted)

11. Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review – West and South West Edinburgh

An update was provided on progress with the strategic review of the schools and lifelong learning estate in west and south west Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the update on the schools and lifelong learning estate strategic review in the west and south west of Edinburgh and the arrangements for the special meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee on 29 March 2018.
- 2) To note that the planned consultation and engagement meetings which were cancelled due to the recent adverse weather conditions would be re-scheduled.

(References – Minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 12 December 2017 (item 6); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the parent of a young person attending Kirkliston Primary School.

12. School Session Dates Consultation

A summary was provided on responses to a consultation of parents/carers, pupils and staff on the criteria for future school session dates. More than 9,000 people took part in the consultation and the feedback had informed proposed session dates for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 which were attached at Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.

Decision

- 1) To note the response to the consultation.
- 2) To agree the proposed session dates for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 3) That future consultation surveys on school sessions dates:
 - i) include information on why parents with children who have severe needs would appreciate a four term model;

- ii) explore potential alternative models and seek views on the timing of summer holidays to allow families to better access Edinburgh Festival events.

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

12. Schools WiFi

An update was given on the number of service related issues and poor coverage which had arisen since the upgrade of the Wi-Fi technologies. This had had a direct impact on schools' ability to connect multiple different devices to the network which could impact on the students' education.

Details were provided of the contributing factors resulting in poor Wi-Fi coverage to the schools. A service improvement plan had been implemented to address the issues.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.
- 2) To agree that a progress report on the 28 sites requiring additional work be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 22 May 2018.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 12 December 2017 (item 2); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

13. Digital Learning to Schools

The Scottish Government report on Enhancing Learning and Teaching through the Use of Digital Technology was published in September 2016, following which schools in Edinburgh had been encouraged to create their own innovative approaches within a framework for delivery.

Details were provided of progress that had been made in this area.

Decision

- 1) To note the Education Digital Learning in Schools Framework contained in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Resources.
- 2) To request an update within nine months on the progress of implementation of each of the key strategic actions contained within the Framework.
- 3) To request an update within nine months on the progress as detailed in the scoping document (Appendix 2 of the report).

- 4) To agree that an update report was submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 22 May 2018 on progress with desktops.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

14. Raising Attainment – Framework for Learning

The Scottish Government policy to improve education and life chances for all was detailed through each of the four national improvement priorities and updated annually in the National Improvement Framework (NIF).

Motion

- 1) To approve the first of the six Frameworks for Learning: Equity for Learning, set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.
 - 2) To approve the establishment of the Equity for Learning Strategic Group.
 - 3) To approve the second of the six Frameworks for Learning: Improving Quality in Learning set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
 - 4) To approve the establishment of the Quality Improvement Strategic Group
 - 5) To request reports from the above groups on an annual basis
 - 6) To note the interim actions contained within the Supporting Children & Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing in School report and Anti Bullying report which were being reported separately to this meeting (see items 19 and 20 below).
- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To approve the recommendations with the following adjustment to the wording at recommendation 5) -

“To request reports from the above groups on an annual basis. The reports should look to measure the impact of the working group's activities.”

- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett

In terms of Standing Order 20 (7), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To approve the first of the six Frameworks for Learning: Equity for Learning, set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.
- 2) To approve the establishment of the Equity for Learning Strategic Group.
- 3) To approve the second of the six Frameworks for Learning: Improving Quality in Learning set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

- 4) To approve the establishment of the Quality Improvement Strategic Group.
- 5) To request reports from the above groups on an annual basis. The reports should look to measure the impact of the working group's activities.
- 6) To note the interim actions contained within the Supporting Children & Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing in School report and Anti Bullying report which were reported separately to this meeting (see items 19 and 20 below).

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

15. Teacher Recruitment Update

Information was provided on the feasibility on the feasibility of creating a talent pool using available data from previous applications and current employees.

Motion

To note the report indicating progress on the medium-to longer-term strategic approaches to tackling teacher recruitment issues, and specifically responding to the request for investigation into the creation of a 'talent pool'.

- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To note the inability to track applications using the myjobscotland website and the challenges of canvassing without consent in the light of forthcoming GDPR compliance and asks officers to bring a report back to a future meeting of the Committee on the successful opt-in Supply Teacher talent pool (referenced in 3.4) for longer term vacancies; allowing the Council the opportunity to make sure all qualified participants were being made aware of vacancies.

- moved by Councillor Laidlaw, seconded by Councillor Rust

In terms of Standing Order 20 (7), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the report indicating progress on the medium-to longer-term strategic approaches to tackling teacher recruitment issues, and specifically responding to the request for investigation into the creation of a 'talent pool'.
- 2) To note the inability to track applications using the myjobscotland website and the challenges of canvassing without consent in the light of forthcoming GDPR compliance and asks officers to bring a report back to a future meeting of the Committee on the successful opt-in Supply Teacher talent pool (referenced in 3.4) for longer term vacancies; allowing the Council the opportunity to make sure all qualified participants were being made aware of vacancies.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee, 12 December 2017 (item 15); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

16. Communities and Families Small Grants to Third Parties 2018/19 – Proposals for Expenditure

Details were provided of the recommended awards to organisations submitting small grant applications to Communities and Families for 2018/19. 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 outlined in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee, 11 February 2016 (item 1); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

17. Year of Young People 2018 and Child Friendly Edinburgh – Young People's Contribution to Decision Making

The Year of Young People 2018 aimed to give young people across the country, opportunities to influence decision making on issues affecting their lives and to be involved in cultural, sporting and other participatory activities. An update was provided on one dimension of how young people became more engaged in decision making processes of the Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To endorse the approach, co-designed with young people, to meaningfully engage and consult on the best ways of ensuring young people's views were heard and taken account of.
- 3) To take account of young people's own suggestions on the best mechanism for their views to be heard, including potential representation on the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 4) To agree to receive a further report in October 2018, updating the Committee on young people's views, feedback and suggestions.
- 5) To agree that the report to Committee would be authored and presented by young people.
- 6) To note that officers and members would continue to develop engagement work with children, young people and their families to increase their participation in the life of the city and in guiding the implementation of the Children's Services Plan 2017-20.

- 7) To agree that the approach to developing a Child Friendly Edinburgh was co-produced with young people and should be developed as part of the Council's 2050 vision.
- 8) To agree that work would commence on the design of a public campaign to promote the Child Friendly Edinburgh brand as part of the Council's communication strategy on 2050 vision, and that children and young people would be involved in designing the approach.
- 9) To refer the report to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee with a recommendation to endorse the report.
- 10) To ensure young people from the traveller community were included in planned engagement events.
- 11) To request the Executive Director for Communities and Families to arrange a training session for elected members on how engagement with children and young people could be improved in the planning and development of services and policy.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 12 December 2017 (item 27); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

18. Holiday Activity Programmes for Disabled Children and Young People

An update was provided on the discussions which had taken place at the meetings of the Short Life Working Group on the Holiday Activity Programme for Disabled Children and Young People. The service operated during school holidays and was valued by families as a crucial support.

Motion

- 1) To note the report.
 - 2) To request that officers draft a report on the feasibility and financial implications of providing a 6 week allocation for families using the holiday playscheme in the current context.
 - 3) To note that the development of options for the future of the holiday playscheme was being considered by the member/officer working group in consultation with parents. This was part of wider engagement with parents and an outcome report would be submitted to Committee.
- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To ask officers to report on the feasibility and financial implications of meeting the request for a return to 6 weeks holiday provision and inform committee within two cycles as to how this could be implemented for 2019/2020.

- moved by Councillor Laidlaw, seconded by Councillor Rust.

In terms of Standing Order 20 (7), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To request that officers draft a report on the feasibility and financial implications of providing a 6 week allocation for families using the holiday playscheme in the current context.
- 3) To note that the development of options for the future of the holiday playscheme was being considered by the member/officer working group in consultation with parents. This was part of wider engagement with parents and an outcome report would be submitted to Committee.
- 4) To ask officers to report on the feasibility and financial implications of meeting the request for a return to 6 weeks holiday provision and inform committee within two cycles as to how this could be implemented for 2019/2020.
- 5) To include a progress update in the Business Bulletin for the next meeting of the Committee on 22 May 2018.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 12 December 2017 (item 1); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

19. Supporting Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing in School

An overview was provided of the interventions, preventative approaches, training and initiatives available in Edinburgh schools and provided by staff in Schools and Lifelong Learning to provide support for children and young people with mental health problems.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and the close links with Year of Young People and Child Friendly Edinburgh.
- 2) To recognise the volume and success of work being undertaken by staff across Communities and Families to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing in school.
- 3) To recognise that all schools as part of the NIF (National Improvement Framework) priorities were required to address Health and Wellbeing for pupils.

- 4) To endorse the approaches being taken to increase the number of schools that were taking steps specifically towards improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes for of pupils by accessing training, resources and other interventions available.
- 5) To approve the work to update classroom and online resources (e.g. Cool, Calm and Connected and Think Good Feel Good), in consultation with young people, to increase awareness of, and access to better mental health support.
- 6) To agree that young people were involved in the design of a young people's mental health survey for use in schools.
- 7) To agree that staff in consultation with young people, continued to work together to identify a key adult or adults, who children and young people could talk to, and provided a safe space for these conversations to take place.
- 8) To agree that officers in consultation with young people, explored options for a self-referral process for pupils at point of need.
- 9) To agree that the proposed Children's Conference included mental health and wellbeing and was linked to Year of Young People, by ensuring young people were involved in planning the conference and had opportunities to influence the decisions that impacted on their lives.
- 10) To agree that young people were engaged in shaping decisions relating to their mental health through several channels such as focus groups and including but not limited to, Year of Young People and Child Friendly Edinburgh (as detailed in paragraph 7.9 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families).
- 11) To agree to receive a further report in March 2019.

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

20. Anti-Bullying

Respect for All National Guidance had recently been published which highlighted the impact bullying could have on confidence, resilience, participation and attainment, both in the short term and long term.

Motion

- 1) To note the current statistics regarding bullying in schools.
 - 2) To ask for a subsequent report in six months once the current policy and procedures had been reviewed.
 - 3) To ask that, in future reports, incidences of Islamophobia were recorded as a separate reporting strand.
- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To ask for the subsequent report to highlight resources available for schools that helped with specific forms of bullying, for example ENABLE Scotland's Be The Change Campaign, which provided resources to help tackle bullying of children with a learning disability.

- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

In terms of Standing Order 20(7), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the current statistics regarding bullying in schools.
- 2) To ask for a subsequent report in six months once the current policy and procedures had been reviewed.
- 3) To ask that, in future reports, incidences of Islamophobia were recorded as a separate reporting strand.
- 4) To ask for the subsequent report to highlight resources available for schools that helped with specific forms of bullying, for example ENABLE Scotland's Be The Change Campaign, which provided resources to help tackle bullying of children with a learning disability.

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

21. South East Improvement Collaborative

The South East Improvement Collaborative Plan was built on extensive collection of data, analysis of current areas of improvement, risk management and consultation with head teachers.

Decision

To approve the collaboration between City of Edinburgh Schools and Lifelong Learning Service to work within the South East Improvement Collaborative

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 12 December 2017 (item 13); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

22. Revenue Monitoring 2017/2018 – Month Eight Position

Details were provided of the projected eight-month revenue monitoring position for the Communities and Families Directorate, based on actual expenditure and income to the end of November 2017 and expenditure and income projections for the remainder of the financial year.

Decision

- 1) To note the net residual service specific budget pressure of £0.5m which remained at month eight.
- 2) To note that approved savings in 2017-18 totalled £7.348m and were on track to be delivered in full.
- 3) To note that the Executive Director for Communities and Families continued to seek further savings to deliver a £1m underspend to support the Council's overall revenue position. However due to internal services pressures there was a risk to the delivery of the full underspend.

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