



Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 22 May 2018

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

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Alison Dickie</p> 	<p>Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Mary Campbell Councillor Maureen Child Councillor Gavin Corbett Councillor Callum Laidlaw Councillor Lewis Ritchie Councillor Jason Rust Councillor Stephanie Smith Councillor Louise Young</p> <p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Rev Dr Rita Welsh Rabbi David Rose Vacancy</p> <p>Parent Representative Alexander Ramage</p>	<p>Lesley Birrell Committee Services 0131 529 4240</p> <p>Laura Millar Service and Policy Adviser to the Convener and Vice-Convener Tel: 0131 529 4319</p>

Merged files for Looked After/Accommodated Children's Records:

A dedicated team from Data Services, with support from relevant service teams, has been established to review looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) records, with a view to establishing if any records have been merged with an adult file. The team are in the process of identifying the population of potentially merged child/adult files and carrying out analysis and data matching activities across legacy and current systems to determine the current status of LAAC files with respect to retention/disposal. Internal Audit is providing oversight to the project to ensure that the methodologies and processes applied to the analysis are robust. A further update will be provided in June.

EIF Residency - Leith Academy and Arts & Creative Learning

I am delighted that we have been successful in our bid to work with Edinburgh International Festival and the Arts & Creative Learning Team, City of Edinburgh Council on this residency project over the next 2-3 years. We work with many partners on improving outcomes for young people in the community of Leith. One of our values is '*Diversity*' and we believe in '*Success in Learning for All*'. This residency will provide our pupils, staff, community and partners an opportunity to work closely with EIF in achieving just that."

- Mike Irving, Head Teacher, Leith Academy

"This extraordinary opportunity to have the Edinburgh International Festival in residence will certainly bear fruit for the whole school community in Leith Academy and beyond. Their application displayed the values, attitudes and capacity to make the biggest difference for young people and their community. The Arts & Creative Learning Team looks forward to helping shape, supporting and contributing to this, in partnership, to maximum benefit for all.

- Lorna Macdonald, Arts & Creative Learning, City of Edinburgh Council

Learning Professional Award

The Learning Professional Award recognises a teacher or librarian who goes above and beyond the call of duty to pass on the 'reading for pleasure' message to the next generation, and who works tirelessly to inspire children to read and write.

Eileen Littlewood, Head Teacher of Forthview Primary School in Edinburgh, has transformed the reading culture amongst her pupils and their parents. She was nominated for the award by Evelyn Love-Gajardo, Development Officer for Literacy Strategy in Edinburgh.

On her award, Eileen Littlewood said: "I was quite overwhelmed when I heard that colleagues had nominated me for this award and very

excited when I heard I had been selected as winner. I know what commitment to promoting literacy and reading many of my colleagues show every day in their work. Reading for enjoyment is the key to success – academic success and success in life. It is a source of joy I want to share with others. Winning this award is a crowning accomplishment for me.”

To read the full article please click [here](#).

Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award

Firrhill has been accredited with the **unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Silver: Rights Aware Award**. The second stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

We are the first school in the UK to have achieved Silver under the new UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools criteria. Firrhill again at the cutting edge!

The Silver: Rights Aware Award is awarded by unicef UK to schools who show good progress towards embedding children’s rights in the school’s policy, practice and ethos. We have shown at Firrhill that we are continuing to make progress, learning about rights in natural ways across the curriculum, through training, assemblies and focused events. Our young people are developing as rights respecting citizens, as well as modelling rights respecting attitudes.

The visiting assessors praised the warm welcome they received from staff, parent council and, in particular, our pupils. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff and pupil RRS working groups, who have committed a great deal of time each week to ensuring our school continues to develop positive relationships, encourage an ethos of respecting the rights of all within Firrhill, and promoting the principles of dignity, participation, fairness and equality for everyone.

No Worries for Young People Reading about Mental Health

A book encouraging children to talk about anxiety has been written by Edinburgh primary school parents as Children’s Mental Health Week launches across Scotland.

‘No Worries’ tells the tale of a group of primary school children going on school camp, each facing and overcoming their different anxieties. Each of the eight characters’ stories were developed by a parent drawing on their own experiences.

The parents, from Forthview Primary School, were helped in their venture through a series of writing workshops with author Mary Turner Thomson and used money from the school’s Pupil Equity Funding to publish the book with WhiteWater Publishing Ltd.

The launch, which took place today (Monday 5 February) at the National Library of Scotland, was attended by Councillor Alison Dickie, Vice

Convener of Education, Children and Families at the City of Edinburgh Council and Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education John Swinney.

It was one of several events involving City of Edinburgh Council schools and young people across the Capital to highlight Children's Mental Health Week. These include:

Pupils from St Catherine's Primary School contributing to a short film on mental health and a singing workshop at Tynecastle High (both also supported by Place2Be) and a young people's event exploring social anxiety and young people as part of the Council's Growing Confidence programme.

Forthview parent, Yvonne Thompson, said: "Writing this book has been a positive experience for each of us, as mental health has an impact on ourselves, our families and within our community. We supported each other through the process of making this book and learnt about the process of writing a book, how we structure stories, use proper grammar and punctuation.

"Writing the book has been somewhat therapeutic for some of us, as we thought about our own anxieties and how they affect us so that we can help our children deal with their worries - it was a great sense of achievement being able to help our children."



Commonwealth Games

Congratulations to our three sporting stars from Communities and Families. Sixteen-year-old Firrhill High School pupil Kenna MacInnes.



Craig Howieson, Teacher of PE in table tennis, Broughton High School



Mel Coutts, Strategic Development Officer (Sport and Physical Activity) in Beach Volleyball.



Duncan Place - Community Asset Transfer Update

The Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015 agreed that a Working Group be set up to take forward discussions with the Duncan Place Management Committee, to progress the possibility of a community asset transfer of the remaining part of the Duncan Place Resource Centre building. The Working Group was established and officers have been working with the renamed Duncan Place Volunteer Management Committee (DPVMC) to apply for funding to enable the asset to be renovated to a habitable condition and transferred to DPVMC.

Considerable refurbishment works are required to bring the building back into a habitable condition. External funds have been

sourced to meet the cost of the refurbishment, including environmental and energy efficient upgrades to reduce the carbon footprint of the building. Council officers in conjunction with DPVMC have been successful in applying for funding for the building works as follows:

Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

(RCGF): £1.2m to fund building refurbishment works. The Scottish Government has recommended this funding for approval.

Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 (SEEP2):

this funding has been approved and will meet 50% of the cost of energy efficiency improvement works, the total cost of which is £529,500.

Salix Finance: the remaining 50% of the cost of energy efficiency improvement works will be met by an interest free Government loan which is being applied for. Repayments are to be funded by efficiencies accrued from energy savings arising from the improvement works and the loan repayments will form part of the Asset Transfer negotiations.

Big Lottery Fund: DPVMC is applying for funding to meet the cost of furnishing the building, including equipment required for community use. The funding will also meet the cost of legal and financial advice for the acquisition of the building, together with the cost of staffing and initial revenue outlay over the first five years of the project. This includes the cost of a project development officer in the first year whilst building works are undertaken. The sum is anticipated to be in the region of £600,000-£700,000 and the Big Lottery Funding Officer has confirmed that DPVMC are at a sufficiently advanced stage to move forward to a full application for this funding.

DPVMC will be in a position to proceed with the asset transfer once their Big Lottery grant application has been submitted and is in the pipeline for consideration. They have advised that they will likely not be in the position to take occupancy of the Duncan Place property prior to September 2020.

In accordance with Council policy, Community Asset Transfer matters are to be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee and a full update report has been submitted to that Committee on 12 June 2018.

Update on The Holiday Activity Programme for Disabled Children

The Holiday Activity Programme contract was awarded to the organisation FABB from October 2017 last year. This programme (usually known as the “playscheme”) works with disabled children with complex and diverse care needs.

Following the change of provider, a number of issues were raised by parents including the amount of provision available per child, and quality of the provision during to the October week. A parental delegation to the Education, Children and Families committee in October led to the formation of a member/officer group which met with parents to discuss the way forward. One outcome of this has been an increase in budget to assist the council to raise the level of provision.

Edinburgh Council staff worked closely with FABB to support the running of the programme, but due to the ongoing management difficulties of the provider, the council took over managerial responsibility for the provision in February 2017, with staff recruitment still undertaken by FABB under the existing contract. The council has now ended the contract with FABB and is in negotiation with another provider to undertake recruitment in the short term for our summer holiday provision.

The October, February and Easter Holiday Programme have all been delivered but have run below capacity, partly due to the management difficulties, but mainly due to the difficulty experienced in recruiting the high numbers of staff required. Due to the seasonal nature of the work, staff are employed on short term contracts, they are mainly students, and current indications are that there is a shortage of labour supply in the market for this type of work. The council is investigating all options to increase recruitment, including direct approaches to colleges and universities.

The aim is to extend provision for up to 6 weeks for children but under current conditions we have not been able to provide 4 weeks to all families who wanted it. We are holding a waiting list of 60-70 families who have not received a service since summer last year. We are aiming to increase capacity for the summer provision, dependent on recruitment of sufficient staff and the ratios required for children attending.

Future Way Forward

We are exploring two possible alternatives for the future.

The council will engage with the market to seek interest in a new contract. The initial Public Information Notice has gone out and this will be followed up by a meeting with any interested Providers. We want to share the many facets of this service and to also feed in the consultation views from families to the process.

We will fully involve parents in consultation about what the future service should look like. We have held one parental consultation meeting and there are two more on the 18 and 25 April 2018. We have also issued a parental questionnaire which closes on the 26 April 2018.

The Provider meeting will be on the 26 April 2018. The new contract will then be put out to tender with a closing date of the 7 May 2018.

Alongside this process, we are also looking at the possibility of bringing the service in house. This involves work with HR and Finance to consider the opportunities and risks. This will include an assessment of the relative costs of in house provision against third sector provision; and risk assessment of the operational impact of running the service alongside other statutory services which have to be provided by our children's disability service.

Easter Break

The Easter Holiday programme has gone well. We sent out questionnaires to families for the 1st week and have had very favourable responses. Scoring on 1-5 basis (5 = very good) we have received many 4's and 5's alongside appreciative text.

A full report will be provided for the August committee, at which point we will be in a position to report on progress in the implementation of the summer playscheme, and future options for delivery.

Schools WiFi update

At the meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee held on 6 March 2018 the Council's Head of ICT and Chief Information Officer provided an update on Schools WiFi and the associated remedial works across schools to improve WiFi access. Within that report it identified the specific sites within the learning and teaching estate that required remediation, those sites that had work carried out and those sites where additional work was

required. The Committee was advised that the Council's ICT partner, CGI, were expected to have completed all the WiFi remediation work by June 2018 and that the progress of this would be tracked carefully by the Council's ICT service.

Given concerns that Council has previously expressed about CGI's delivery of ICT change projects, including the WiFi upgrade, these issues have been formally escalated and are reviewed by the Council and CGI during the weekly executive review meetings.

Digital Learning to Schools

A feasibility study has been underway. This is to identify the feasibility of public WiFi supporting learning and teaching for senior pupils within James Gillespie's High School. CGI have expressed the view that devices need to have access routed through Office 365. All risks identified with this will be defined and mitigated before the final decision is made. At time of writing this is not yet finalised.

The other aspects required by the QI service to support this aim included the development of a digital learning strategy. This is now underway.

Royal High School

The remediation work continues with a combination of additional cabling works and re-positioning of the Wi-Fi access points being undertaken. The Council's ICT Relationship Manager for Communities and Families will maintain close contact with the school through to completion of the work.

Prestonfield Primary School

The gym hall was identified as not having WiFi coverage. Upon further investigation, it was confirmed that prior to the WiFi upgrade project, the gym hall did not have any WiFi access. Consequently, additional WiFi access points required to be ordered and installed. The Council's ICT Service is working closely with the Head Teacher and CGI to ensure the school has full coverage and that the gym hall has Wi-Fi installed. The Head Teacher has also identified additional coverage issues and this feedback is currently being reviewed.

The previous committee report can be found [here](#).

A further progress report on will be presented to the Committee on 22 May 2018.

[Carolann Miller](#),
Interim Chief
Officer

Open Library

The Open + Project Manager Lisa Paton started in post on 16 April and her focus is on moving the Open + solution forwards. The Open + Board, involving Lifelong Learning, FM, Security, CGI and Council ICT Solutions has met to identify requirements.

Discussions have begun with CGI regarding procurement, potential locations for the pilot library locations are being investigated and a detailed risk analysis is being undertaken. The current IT infrastructure across the library estate is being audited to ensure it is able to support the systems required for successful roll out of Open + to libraries.

Para Sport Festival

The seventh annual Para Sport Festival took place at Forrester / St Augustine's School Campus, Edinburgh on Friday 23rd March, attracting 81 school aged pupils with a physical or sensory impairment from across the East of Scotland to register for the event. The festival, which is supported by the Celtic Foundation, aims to provide a platform for young people from the mainstream education environment an opportunity to access sports delivered by experienced coaches while also raising awareness in Para Sport.





