

# Motions and Amendments

## Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00 am Friday, 16th August, 2019

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

### Motions and Amendments

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9.1 Motions and Amendments

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**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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## Addendum by the Green Group

### Education, Children & Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.1 - Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection in the City of Edinburgh

Committee:

Agrees recommendations and adds:

- 1.1.2 Notes that the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Improvement Plan, covering the areas for improvement identified by the inspection, will be submitted to the Care Inspectorate.

**Moved by: Councillor Steve Burgess**

**Seconded by: Councillor Mary Campbell**

# Addendum by the Green Group

## Education, Children & Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.3: Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report

Committee:

Agrees recommendations and adds:

- 1.1.3 Notes that the areas for improvement as highlighted by the Child Protection Committee Annual Report, to be taken forward over the coming year, will be incorporated into the Child Protection Committee improvement plan, the next version of which will be considered by the Child Protection Committee in September 2019.
- 1.1.4 Requests that the views expressed by families about the child protection system be specifically responded to in the Improvement Plan.

**Moved by: Councillor Steve Burgess**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Mary Campbell**

# Motion by the Coalition

## Education, Children and Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.5 – Schooling Options for Children Living in Edinburgh

Committee;

Agrees recommendation 1.1.2 and adds;

Notes that home education is a parental choice with 56 children currently registered in Edinburgh as being home schooled.

Further notes, that the parents of a child who has attended a public nursery or school must seek consent to withdraw for home schooling, however those who have never attended nursery or school, or who have not registered with a GP, are unknown to Council, NHS and wider support services.

Acknowledges, this loophole and the discussions underway between the Council and NHS to partly address this through health visitor checks.

Further acknowledges, however, registration with a GP is key to health visitors being involved in the first place with younger children.

Instructs therefore, the Vice Convener to write to the Scottish Government on the Committee's behalf to request that national policy be amended to obligate parents to ensure children not enrolled in schools/educated at home are registered with the appropriate authority, and a GP.

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**Moved by** Councillor Dickie

**Seconded  
by** Councillor Perry

# Motion by the Coalition

## Education, Children and Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.8 – Climate Change Strikes by Children

Committee;

Agrees recommendations 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.4

Replace recommendation 1.1.3 with;

Notwithstanding the information contained within the report, Committee acknowledges the benefits of children taking part in demonstrations and marches which highlight climate change and the detrimental effect on our future environment.

Given the general political consensus on the need to tackle climate change, Committee agrees to authorise a single day of action per academic year for those pupils who wish to take part.

The pupil's absence will only be considered authorised with parental consent which will be required to be sent to the school, in writing, in advance of any absence. Where consent is provided, the school is absolved of any responsibility for that pupil during the day of action.

Any other absences in relation to climate change will be recorded by the school as unauthorised.

Committee would also like to encourage schools to support pupils in any school-led initiatives and the production of any material which informs about climate change as detailed in paragraph 4.13.

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**Moved by** Councillor Perry

**Seconded  
by** Councillor Dickie

# Addendum by the Conservative Group

## Education, Children and Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.8 – Climate Change Strikes by Children

Committee:

Adds to 1.1.3 – “and records any attendance at future climate strikes held during the school day as an unauthorised absence”.

Moved By: Councillor Callum Laidlaw  
Seconded By:

# Amendment by the Green Group

## Education, Children & Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.8: Climate Change Strikes by Children

Committee:

Agrees recommendations 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.4

Deletes recommendation 1.1.3

Add the following sections to recommendations and re-number accordingly;

1. Notes that in October 2018 the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that to mitigate severe impacts of climate change, average global temperature increases need to stay below 1.5 degrees centigrade and that greenhouse gas emissions will need to reduce by 45% globally by 2030. Thus setting a 12-year time frame for action and giving rise to the term 'Climate Emergency';
2. Notes that in response to this Climate Emergency an international movement of school students has developed under the banner 'Fridays 4 Future', who are deciding not to attend school on Fridays and instead take part in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change;
3. Notes that the contribution of the global movement of young people is widely acknowledged to have hugely influenced the response to the Climate Emergency, including the First Minister of Scotland citing a meeting with school climate strikers and their demand for governments to declare a climate emergency with her declaration of a Climate Emergency in Scotland;
4. Notes that in May 2019 City of Edinburgh Council also agreed to set a 2030 target for achieving carbon neutrality in response to the Climate Emergency but has yet to produce a carbon reduction plan for achieving this target;
5. Recognises that whilst, in accordance with its duties, the City of Edinburgh Council aims to promote good attendance at school:
  - a) That in Council schools, 'satisfactory attendance' does allow for a number of absences. That the extent of any disruption to learning will clearly be in proportion to the extent of absence. That the number of days absent from school for climate strikes represents a very small proportion of the whole school year, that school strikes take place on Friday which is normally a short, 3.5 hour school day, and that therefore

disruption to learning is limited. That absences approved by this committee in support of school climate strikes to date have amounted to only two half-days in the previous school year;

- b) That absences from school for climate strikes have had a hugely significant influence on the global response to the Climate Emergency so far and that their continuation will be influential in driving further action;
- c) That school children and young people coming together to take part in Climate Strikes has in itself considerable educational value and is supported by educational experts;

6. Notes that the latest Scottish Government guidance 2019, 'Included, Engaged and Involved' Part 1, states that reasons for authorised absence can include '*participation in non-school debates, sports, musical or drama activities agreed by the school.*' and notes that this guidance recognises the value of external events and allows for authorised absence, which could include school climate strikes;
7. Therefore believes that children and young people should be encouraged and supported to demonstrate that their future is at stake because of the Climate Emergency and should not be penalised for unauthorised absence when taking part in school climate strikes;
8. Agrees that requests by school climate strikers for authorised absence will continue to be considered by the Council.

**Moved by: Councillor Steve Burgess**

**Seconded by:**

# Motion by the Coalition

## Education, Children and Families Committee

16 August 2019

### Item 7.9 – Transfer of Management of Secondary School Sport Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure

Committee;

Agrees recommendations 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and adds;

Notes the first local Child Poverty Action Plan at item 7.4, the establishment of the new Child Poverty Action Unit, and the work underway to reduce child poverty.

Requests the Culture and Communities Committee ask for a report from Edinburgh Leisure on how they, as a partner, are helping to reduce child poverty and the cost of living for families in the city through:

- An increased range of free and affordable activities for children and families experiencing poverty.
- Equitable access to activities and opportunities in high SIMD areas.
- Ensuring that the priority in the use of school premises is given to local community groups working with local children and families.

To request that this report is referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee and Child Poverty Action Unit for information.

**Moved by** Councillor Perry

**Seconded by** Councillor Dickie