

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 18 May 2021

Present:

Councillors Perry (Convener), Dickie (Vice-Convener), Bird, Burgess, Mary Campbell, Douglas, Griffiths, Key, Laidlaw, Rust and Louise Young.

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge.

Parent Representative

Alexander Ramage.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 2 March 2021 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Committee's Work Programme updated to May 2021 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 18 May 2021, submitted)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Rolling Actions Log for May 2021 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 3 – Educational Attainment in the Broad General Education for Primary and Secondary Schools 2018.
 - Action 25 – Business Bulletin – Gaelic Medium Education Informal Consultation.
 - Action 26 – Energy in Schools Annual Report
 - Action 16 – Edinburgh Learns Inclusion Annual Report
 - Action 30 – Rising School Rolls Update

- Action 33 – School Roll Projections and Rising School Rolls – Written Deputation from James Gillespie’s High School Parent Council.

2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference - Rolling Actions Log – 18 May 2021, submitted)

4. Racism Action Tracker

The Racism Action Tracker updated to May 2021 was presented.

The tracker updated committee on the ongoing actions and progress taken to support schools and, staff and pupils in tackling racist incidents.

Decision

To note the Racism Action Tracker.

(Reference – Racism Action Tracker, submitted)

5. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for May 2021 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To agree that Education, Children and Families committee members, head teachers and parents would receive an update on outdoor learning and the Council’s next steps to implement this following the release of Scottish Government’s updated guidance on outdoor learning.
- 3) To circulate a briefing note and impact statement from the Homelessness Prevention Group.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted)

6. Report Regarding Petition – Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School

An update was provided on the new city-wide capacity-building model of English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher provision and the impact specifically on Dalry Primary School.

With the new city-wide model resulting in a loss of provision for Dalry Primary School, members took assurance that the Integrated Impact Assessments detailed no detrimental impact to the teaching of EAL, and were supportive of the continuation of plans currently in place to support EAL teachers at Dalry Primary School to adjust to the new model.

Moving forward, Committee were supportive of the proposed next steps of the model roll-out, which included the formation of a short-life working group that would review the criteria for allocating distribution of EAL Teacher support to all primary schools.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing work to develop a sustainable, equitable and capacity-building approach to provision for English as an Additional Language learners across all schools.
- 2) To note the ongoing work to support Dalry Primary school to adjust and engage with this approach.
- 3) To agree the next steps proposed at section 5.
- 4) To agree that an update be presented in October 2021 to report on the evaluation of the initial phase of implementation of the Language and Literacy Collaboration at Dalry Primary School.
- 5) To agree that an update be presented in December 2021 to report on the recommendations and actions detailed in the Integrated Impact Assessment and the review of the criteria for allocating distribution of EAL Teacher support to all primary schools.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

7. Response to Incidents Survey

Committee were updated on the actions undertaken in response to the deputation by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) to the December 2018 Committee following their 'Violence in Work' survey.

The report gave members an overview of the mechanisms used to report incidents, actions taken once incidents are reported, and the ongoing work to ensure incidents and actions taken are recorded correctly and consistently.

Members were supportive of the next steps and requested an update report at a future committee meeting in order to review the work done between now and then.

Decision

- 1) To note ongoing work with unions to ensure that physical incidents are reported and recorded correctly.
- 2) To note ongoing work on Quality Assurance of reporting of physical incidents to ensure that these are being recorded consistently.
- 3) To note that the Relationships, Learning and Behaviour Procedure details the actions that are taken when physical incidents are reported, including support for staff.
- 4) To bring an update via the Business Bulletin to Committee on 24 August 2021.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

8. Promoting Equality

A summary of progress in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan was presented.

Members were updated on the work done on promoting equalities throughout a range of different areas, including:

- Communication and Engagement
- Representation, Recruitment and Retention
- Teaching and Learning
- Health and Wellbeing

Committee were supportive of the plans going forward to progress work as outlined in the Action Plan, as well as progressing the additional incentives set out in the report.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and work underway to promote equality, diversity and inclusion across City of Edinburgh schools and youth work in all aspects of education and lifelong learning systems, procedures and practices.
- 2) To approve the strengthened procedure for Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice amongst Children and Young People.
- 3) To approve the supplementary guidance on Tackling Racist Incidents and Creating an Anti-Racist Culture.
- 4) To agree the next steps set out at paragraphs 5.1–5.3 of the report.
- 5) To note at item 4.6 that an Equalities Staff Reference group had been established to explore and work towards a shared understanding of the distinct concepts of a diverse and decolonised curriculum and to ask that this group reports back to Committee with its thoughts and recommendations.
- 6) To note that LGBT Youth Scotland was funded to take forward the LGBT Charter across Edinburgh secondary schools over the next three years but only 11 secondary schools and one special school had.
- 7) To agree that Council would strongly recommend that all secondary schools implement the charter and help identify funding routes to implement it.
- 8) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan be presented at every Committee until further notice.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

9. Edinburgh Learns for Life

Details were submitted of the revised strategic plan for education designed to meet the objectives of the City Vision 2050.

Information was also provided on the vision, mission and goals agreed through consultation before and during COVID as well as further information about the governance structures in place to deliver these objectives.

Members noted that, moving forward, each Board would be undertaking Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) and would report progress back to the Committee as these were completed.

Decision

- 1) To approve the vision, mission, and goals of Edinburgh Learns for Life as the strategic framework for education, in pursuance of the City Vision 2050.
- 2) To continue to ask for annual reports on the progress of each themed Edinburgh Learns for Life Board.
- 3) To have future IIAs presented to Committee for further review.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

10. Lifelong Learning Service Plan Update

Committee were presented with the Year 2 progress of the Lifelong Learning Service Plan. The report covered from 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020, and included the initial response to COVID, as well as services affected by the pandemic beyond 30 June 2020 up to February 2021.

The report updated members on the provision of services throughout the pandemic in the following thematic areas:

- Arts and Creative Learning
- Community Learning and Development
- Community Partnerships and Community Planning
- Health and Wellbeing
- Library and Information Services
- Sport, Physical Activity and Outdoor Learning
- Youth Participation.

Members noted that further reports would be presented to Committee on specific areas as the year progressed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree to receive a further update in October 2021 to re-align reporting with the Lifelong Learning Plan cycle.
- 3) To note that the Lifelong Learning actions addressing Child Poverty were contained within the report and appendices and future updates would be provided in the Business Bulletin.
- 4) To note that the contents of this report covered the Lifelong Learning Service and that wider partnership work was covered by the CLD (Community Learning and Development) Plan.

- 5) To note that Scottish Government guidance now provided for the resumption of some indoor youth work (particularly for vulnerable young people) with appropriate guidance and risk mitigations, and the decision to resume indoor youth work would require an agreement on the resource allocation required for that activity.
- 6) To note that the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit would present a report to Committee in August 2021 as requested in the schedule providing more information regarding excursions linked to reducing poverty and inequality.
- 7) To agree that the updated Scottish Government guidance relating to youth work would be shared with Education, Children and Families Committee members.
- 8) To further agree that members of Committee would receive an update regarding how many youth groups could restart and when following consideration of this matter by the Council's service resumption group.
- 9) To agree that the Convener would write to the Chief Executive of The City of Edinburgh Council to signal the Committee's will to resume youth work within community centres as soon as possible.
- 10) To agree that the Council's Head of Property and Facilities Management would highlight to the Scottish Government the adverse impact that current coronavirus guidelines had on the Council's capacity to recommence youth work, due to the requirement to deploy Council facility management staff within schools, which had led to a shortfall in resource to service the cleaning requirements in community centres.
- 11) To establish a cross party working group which would meet within two weeks of the Committee and would focus on recommencing youth work in community centres.
- 12) To agree to keep members of the Education, Children and Families Committee updated on developments relating to the resumption of youth work.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

11. Education Standards and Quality Report (1)

Committee were presented with the first of two Standards and Qualities reports summarising the significant work ongoing across the education service which had continued throughout the year of the pandemic.

The report set out the objectives, achievements and the next steps for Equity, Pathways, Health and Wellbeing and Digital Learning. Members noted that the areas for improvement were also reflected and would be reported to Committee as part of the Education Improvement Plan in August 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the achievements and next steps across the themes reported in this section of the S&Q Report.

- 2) To note that the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged learners (for school leavers) quintile 1 attainment actually decreased at SCQF Levels 3 and 4 (plus a slight drop at Level 5) compared to 2019. By contrast, the attainment of those young people living in the most affluent areas, increased for each of these measures.
- 3) To recognise the need to create a distinct 'catch-up' plan to address this COVID exacerbated gap and to request officers to develop a plan for how City of Edinburgh officers could work with schools to critically evaluate their planned use of PEF and ensure that it is used to support equity cohorts through the delivery of targeted catch-up provision.
- 4) To note the continued hard work of teams across departments within City of Edinburgh, staff in schools and partners to support children and young people as part of the Covid-19 response.
- 5) To review the Standards and Quality Part 2 at the next Education, Children and Families Committee in August.
- 6) To agree that the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning compile a list of the activity that was underway to address the attainment gap and that the Convener and Conservative Group Spokesperson would meet to reflect on the activity list to address the attainment gap.
- 7) To note that the Education Improvement Plan would be submitted to the August meeting of Committee.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

12. Young Carers Services

Information was provided on the partners awarded a contract for Young Carer Services.

The partners approved were Broomhouse t/a SPACE, Edinburgh Young Carers and Capital Carers. Members were encouraged of the range of approaches each had taken to further develop young carers throughout the pandemic and were supportive of plans to build on this as Edinburgh emerged from lockdown.

Decision

- 1) To note progress with the implementation of additional support for Young Carers as part of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.
- 2) To note that an update report would be provided in October 2021.

(Reference – Report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, submitted)

13. Early Years Expansion to 1140 Funded Hours – Progress and Risk Update

An update was provided on the expansion of Early Years provision throughout the city. The expansion to 1140 funded hours was originally planned to be completed by August 2020 but due to the pandemic, this had been revised and would now be a statutory entitlement for all eligible 2, 3 and 4-year olds from August 2021.

Members noted further impacts of COVID which included strenuous infection control requirements and delays to refurbishments and new build nurseries.

It was noted that the report aimed to seek approval from the Finance and Resources Committee to approve a contract to allow the completion of five nurseries.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress update on the Early Years 1140 expansion in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the impact of COVID-19 on the capital programme and delivery models available to parents accessing 1140 hours.
- 3) To note the review of the hourly rate paid to partners to deliver funded early learning and childcare and agree to increase the rate from £5.31 to £5.42 from 18 August 2021 to reflect findings of the review.
- 4) To agree to review the hourly rate for funded providers in no more than three years from the date of this report.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

14. Relationships, Learning and Behaviour Procedure

Members were advised that there had been no change to the Relationships, Learning and Behaviour Procedure which had been shared with schools in May 2019.

Members noted that, when the procedure was next reviewed in May 2022, schools and the relevant stakeholders would be involved in informing this review.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Relationships, Learning and Behaviour Procedure shared with schools in May 2019 remained in place.
- 2) To note that the above procedure included information relating to Positive Relationships and Intimate Care.
- 3) To note that the next review date for this procedure was May 2022 and that schools and the relevant stakeholders would be involved in informing this review.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

15. Renewal of NHS Lothian Service Level Agreement

An overview of how the City of Edinburgh Council planned to deliver services jointly with NHS Lothian for the financial years 21/22 and 22/23 was presented.

Information was provided on the children and young people services commissioned from CEC to NHSL that had been reviewed to ensure the delivery and performance was aligned with the Scottish Government's 'Get it Right for Every Child' strategic priorities.

It was noted that, due to the pandemic and the closure of schools, not all reviews had been completed, however, it was deemed appropriate to extend funding for these arrangements to allow time for sufficient review.

Decision

- 1) To note the decisions by the Finance and Resources Committee on 5 March 2020 and the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25 June 2020 to extend the funding to NHS Lothian for twelve months to ensure continuity of the service for the financial year 2020/21.
- 2) To approve, in principle, the award of Service Level Agreement contracts to NHS Lothian for 24 months to the value of £1,912,605 listed at Appendix 1 and to refer this to the Finance and Resources Committee on 20 May 2021 for final approval.
- 3) To approve, in principle, extension of the current arrangements with NHS Lothian for 12 months, to the value of £380,335, listed at Appendix 2 and to refer this to the Finance and Resources Committee on 20 May 2021 for final approval.

(Reference – Report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, submitted)

16. South East Improvement Collaborative – Edinburgh Focus Summary

Progress was reported on the South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC) from March 2020 – April 2021. The report provided members with data relating to context, pupil and attainment detail across all five local authorities, as well as the proposed next steps that were still to be agreed through the SEIC Governance Structure.

Decision

To note the added value provided through links across the South East Improvement Collaborative

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

17. Attainment in the Senior Phase, 2019-2020

A summary was presented of the key outcomes relating to attainment in the City of Edinburgh Council secondary schools for the senior phase (s4 to s6) for 2019-20.

The report updated members with the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment across secondary schools, as well as the work of pupils, staff and parents/carers who successfully delivered national qualifications throughout lockdown.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the Senior Phase in City of Edinburgh secondary schools.
- 2) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment/improvements in performance in the Senior Phase.
- 3) To note that the number of pupils leaving education for positive destinations in Edinburgh had fallen below the national average, largely due to a considerable fall in those entering employment.
- 4) To note the recommendation of the formation of a Youth Employment Partnership and to agree that it should have its first meeting prior to the next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee in August, to include representatives of public and private sector employers and report back to the next meeting of the Committee with agreed membership, objectives and proposed activity.
- 5) To note the continued hard work of young people, staff and parents/carers to support the successful delivery of national qualifications in session 2019-20 despite a period of national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

18. School Session Dates 2022-2025

The outcome of the consultation with parents/carers, pupils and staff on the school session dates for 2022-2025 was submitted.

70% of responses were broadly satisfied with the three-term year with 87% in favour of retaining a 2-week Christmas break. This response rate was noted to be consistent across all stakeholder groups.

Member also noted the proposed change to the Christmas holiday period for 2021/22, which, in order to ensure that the session consisted of the correct amount of days overall, proposed to extend the last term by one day from Tuesday 30 June to Friday 1 July 2022.

Decision

- 1) To note the responses to the session dates consultation.
- 2) To approve the proposed session dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 3) To note that retention of local holidays was proposed (and favoured) but not in alignment with bank holidays, which were now more widely taken than local holidays.

- 4) To agree that the next survey would offer respondents the option of asking if they would prefer local holidays to be aligned with bank holidays which were more likely to align with parental leave.
- 5) To approve the adjustment to the 2021/22 session in line with the March Committee report.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 2 March 2021 (item 13); Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

19. Sistema Scotland – Big Noise Orchestra Programme

Committee were presented with an overview of how Sistema Scotland's Big Noise Orchestra Programme would be supported in Edinburgh (Wester Hailes) over the first 5 years of the rollout.

Members noted the intentions of the Council to work alongside Sistema Scotland in partnership to deliver and support the programme, as well as develop a strategic partnership that would support the programme's sustainability from year and beyond.

In the short term, members were supportive of the plans to be involved in a Steering Group alongside Sistema Scotland and CEC Officers to provide governance and oversight.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree to officers providing in-kind support within existing budgets to support the delivery of Big Noise in Wester Hailes planned to begin in August 2021.
- 3) To note that Sistema Scotland had committed to meeting full project costs for five years.
- 4) To note that Big Noise was a long-term commitment to a community and that Sistema Scotland had agreed to establish a fundraising committee to support the programme's sustainability beyond the initial five year period.
- 5) To agree that during the initial five years, officers and Sistema Scotland would work in partnership, and that partnership would be re-negotiated after five years for year 6 and beyond.
- 6) To note that no financial commitment to support the programme beyond the initial five years could be made by the Council and that any funding requests would have to be considered by a future Council.
- 7) To note that Sistema Scotland had begun consultation and engagement with the local schools and community.
- 8) To agree that officers should work to ensure complementarity between the Big Noise programme and existing programmes such as the Council's own Instrumental Music Service, Discover and other local programmes.

- 9) To agree to receive further reports updating members on progress including attainment data from Glasgow.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

20. Wester Hailes High School – Change of School Name

Approval was sought to change the name of the current Wester Hailes Education Centre to Wester Hailes High School.

The Wester Hailes Working Group had conducted a survey in June 2019 and a clear majority of 35.02% of different stakeholders had agreed with the proposal to rename the Centre to Wester Hailes High School.

Decision

To approve the change of name for Wester Hailes Education Centre to Wester Hailes High School.

(Reference – Report by the Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted)

21. Internal Audit – Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 10 February 2021 – Referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report on Internal Audit's Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 10 February 2021 for information.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – Report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

22. Motion by Councillor Mary Campbell – Deferred Start Funding

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Mary Campbell in terms of Standing Order 17:

- “1.1 Committee notes that each year a number of families whose children are due to start school before the age of 5 contact the council seeking to defer the start of primary school for a year and to secure funding for a further year in a pre-school setting; committee further notes that children who are not 5 until the following January or February will automatically get government funding for a deferred year if they so apply, but that those whose 5th birthday falls August to December are funded on a case by case basis by the council.
- 1.2 Committee notes the forthcoming change in deferred places funding for children starting primary school, which means that from 2023, children born from August to December will also be able to get deferred early learning and childcare places funded by the Scottish Government.
- ”

- 1.3 Committee recognises that under previous deferred places rules, Edinburgh had a large number of deferred places applications, and that the forthcoming change may increase pressure on early years places.
 - 1.4 In light of the pending changes Committee therefore requests a report, by December 2021, on the preparations that need to be made to build capacity for this change, with a specific focus on how to level the application playing field so that the council can ensure that the children most in need of a deferred start are encouraged to apply.
 - 1.5 For the August 2021 intake, Committee also recognises the unique circumstances of the year past and the level of applications for deferrals from parents concerned that their children have not been able to develop as well with so much time spent out of nursery; and so agrees to fund any non-granted requests from those families who have already applied for term 2021/2022; committee notes that this number will be known for certain after the appeals committee meets on the 13th of May, but will be fewer than 55 children.
 - 1.6 The finance needed to resource 1.5 should be referred to full Council on 27 May 2021.
 - 1.7 Committee also agrees that Convenor should write to the Minister for Childcare and the Early Years and COSLA to request consideration to be one of the pilot Council areas for 2022/2023, in order to learn as much as possible about the likely impact, and so the Scottish Government can gain data from a large local authority with a likely high uptake rate.
 - 1.8 Committee also mandates the Convenor to write to the Minister for Childcare and the Early Years and COSLA to request additional legislative work to consider the circumstances of premature children, in light of evidence showing that premature birth is linked to additional learning challenges, and that premature children whose birthdays fall outside the considered deferral period but whose expected due date would have qualified them for deferred enrolment are put at a double disadvantage.
- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Decision

- 1) To approve the motion by Councillor Mary Campbell.
- 2) To refer the motion to the City of Edinburgh Council on 27 May 2021 for decision on the additional expenditure detailed in paragraph 1.5 which was not included in the annual revenue budget for the financial year 2021/22.

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