

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 12 October 2021

Present:

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

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge and Rabbi David Rose.

Parent Representative

Alexander Ramage

1. Deputation – Holy Corner Community Playgroup

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Holy Corner Community Playgroup. The deputation made the following key points:

- The deputation raised a 'red flag' that baby and toddler voluntary community groups had not emerged from Covid. This had created a gap of provision for children around 2 years old and children who were due to start nursery.
- The deputation cited that it took a community to raise a child, but as a result of the lack of availability and access to community groups, young children were missing out on key development.
- Concerns were raised on the model of hours the playgroups used and how this did not coincide with the Council's preferred model. The 1140 funded hours model was not suitable for the playgroups, who offered a 600-hour model. The 1140 model was not achievable as the playgroups were often used by parents for only 2-3 hours per day on occasions. The deputation called for more support and action to support this model.

Decision

- 1) To thank the deputation for their presentation.
- 2) To request officers to report to the December Committee meeting with an update on the pilot scheme with private and voluntary sector childcare providers; the report to also include an overview of the strategic planning, preparation and response strategy in place to address the pandemic recovery

programme for the provision of childcare in early years settings across the City.

- 3) To acknowledge the offer from officers to meet with Holy Corner Community Playgroup representatives to discuss their specific issues.

2. School Sports & Extra Curricular Activities/School Lets: Progress Update

2.1 Deputation – Buckstone Youth Dance

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Buckstone Youth Dance.

The deputation made the following key points:

- The impact of not allowing use of the local primary school for the group was highlighted and questions arose as to how other venues – such as the community hall – were an option but not the school.
- The deputation questioned why other after school activities have been allowed to resume but not their group, especially given that group members attended school together anyway.
- Although the deputation recognised that outdoor groups were more readily able to return, the confirmation from in-school facilities management that they could manage after school lets, and the possibility for adequate ventilation and social distancing were cited as controls that should allow the resumption of the group.
- The impact on dancers was requested not to be underestimated, with young people losing out on valuable social development as a result of suspending the group.

2.2 Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services

An update on the progress of the re-implementation of school sports and extracurricular activities was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note that Edinburgh's Active Schools programme had traditionally utilised more charged coaching than other local authorities, recognising the greater number of sports clubs and professional coaching available in Scotland's capital city, and the associated value this had brought to children and young people wanting to enter professional competitive sport and associated careers. This has entailed low-level charging of some participants, on a means-tested basis (e.g., excluding those on free meals) and at a considerably lower cost than private clubs.
- 2) To recognise that the new Scottish Government policy on the delivery of Active Schools would prevent these charged activities being run by Active Schools Coordinators, with a view to increasing equity, but to acknowledge

that this may have an impact on the breadth and quality of sports offered when relying on volunteer coaches.

- 3) To note that some schools would choose to continue to work with and/or take on organisations that charged for coaching and would either charge pupils, request support from Parent Councils or find other sources of funding to pay for this provision.
- 4) To note that Active Schools were responsible for ensuring as many opportunities in physical activity and sport were offered to pupils and school led demand may require the Active Schools Coordinators to source clubs/organisations that could deliver activities and would do so for a charge, with the agreement that free places would be offered to those who needed it. Such sessions may still be organised by Active Schools but not run by them. It would be the responsibility of the club/organisation to take bookings, produce registers, collate medical information and collect payment, however Active Schools Coordinators would help.
- 5) To agree to provide specific communications to Active Schools Coordinators, schools, clubs and parent organisations to specify how this could be organised using resources such as ParentPay.
- 6) To recognise that this was a transition period to a changed operating model and that it was important that the impact was assessed.
- 7) To recognise the concerns expressed by some schools in areas of multiple deprivation that the Active School model changes could affect them disproportionately due to their issues recruiting volunteer coaches. As they had stretched staff capacity, who were already working to ensure the highest standard of learning and pastoral care, and that their families faced multiple barriers to volunteering, including zero hours contracts, poor mental and physical health, caring responsibilities, language barriers, substance misuse issues and more.
- 8) To note that as school lets were a vital resource for delivering health and well-being and that given working hours this was often only possible to be delivered by parental volunteers after 6pm.
- 9) Therefore, to agree to support the expected increase in volunteer delivery by allocating one evening, per school, per week, where the period 6-9pm was offered for volunteer delivered sport free-of-charge in three one-hour slots.
- 10) Following a discussion at the Consultative Committee with Parents on 7 October 2021, Committee sought to address the concerns raised and to further agree that Council officers report to the December Committee meeting with the following information:
 - To explore options for how the Council and Active Schools Coordinators could support extra-curricular activities, including the potential for training

of volunteers, linking to recognised qualification schemes, covering the costs of PVG checks, sourcing equipment, and any additional measures to ensure that schools who needed support to run a full programme of extra-curricular activities could do so.

- To provide a list of all the extra curriculum activities and sports that were offered before the pandemic (for each CEC school) and how they were delivered
- What sports were now offered under the free of charge Active Schools programme (for each CEC school)
- What sports previously offered under Active Schools were now organised independently to include:
 - What was being offered and provider
 - Costs to pupils
 - Costs being met by PTAs and other parental donations
 - If ParentPay was being used
- progress to re-establishing the programme to pre-Covid levels.
- To establish if this had resulted in additional charges being levied on parents that were not charged pre-Covid.
- To report back the Equalities Impact Assessment of the new offer.
- To detail the outcomes that would be delivered as part of the extra curriculum programme and how these would be monitored.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 24 August 2021 (item 15); report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

3. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 24 August 2021 as a correct record.

4. Work Programme

The Committee’s Work Programme updated to October 2021 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 24 August 2021, submitted)

5. Rolling Actions Log

The Rolling Actions Log updated to October 2021 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 1A – Sport and Outdoor Learning Community Asset Transfer of Sports Facilities
 - Action 16 (1) (2) – Business Bulletin – Outdoor Learning, Homelessness Prevention Group and Response to Incident Survey
- 2) To set the expected completion date for Action 1B – Funding for Excursions for Educational Purposes for December 2021.
- 3) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, 12 October 2021, submitted)

6. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for October 2021 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To include in the Strategic Overview of Early Years Childcare Provision report scheduled to be presented to the December Committee meeting a focus on:
 - A more comprehensive option for families utilising the Play Scheme that includes more than two half days throughout the holiday;
 - A focus on specific considerations and implications for families with children attending special schools.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted)

7. Learning Estates Strategy

The key aspects of 'Edinburgh's Learning Estate Strategy 2021: Investing in New Buildings: Guiding Principles' were presented. The report highlighted the significant investment in the learning estate included in the Council's 10-year Capital Investment Programme and it was noted that this was essential in achieving the priorities of the Council's Business Plan.

Decision

To approve the Edinburgh's Learning Estate Strategy 2021: Investing in New Buildings: Guiding Principles as set out in appendix 1 of the report.

(Reference – Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

8. Promoting Equality

A summary of progress made in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan was presented. The report outlined a number of new initiatives that had been undertaken in the Plan as well as an update on the work undertaken to raise awareness of discrimination, inequality, sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

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 agree the next steps set out at Section 5.1 and 5.2 of the report.
- 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan would be reported to every Committee until further notice.

(Reference – Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

9. New Primary School Name

An update on the process undertaken to establish a name for the new primary school currently under construction in Canaan Lane was presented. The report provided a further update on specific areas raised at the August Committee meeting and set out options for taking forward the process.

Decision

- 1) To note the updated report and the efforts made to consult with ward councillors on a consultation process.
- 2) To proceed with the consultation before the school opens to ensure a permanent identity was in place for the children attending, and that the consultation should:
 - be open to parents of proposed new P1 intake, parents of neighbouring primary schools, parents of childcare and early learning settings in the proposed catchment of the new school and local residents living in the proposed catchment of the new school
 - be hosted online and to follow the model used for the Braid Road consultation, requiring full address details and 'reason for responding' (i.e. nursery parent) to ensure respondents were eligible
 - include the 3 names on the final shortlist in the report
 - ask respondents to rank the names in order of preference (to provide additional detail for committee on overall popularity of each option)

- start as soon as possible but allow additional time if it crossed over with the mid-term break
 - be communicated to ward councillors, schools/nurseries for sharing with parents and the community council.
- 3) The outcome of the consultation, including a breakdown of results by type of respondent, to be reported back to members in one cycle at the December meeting.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 24 August 2021 (item 11); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

10. West Edinburgh High School

In response to a motion by Councillor Louise Young approved by Committee on 24 August 2021, an update was provided on the current position with the delivery of a new West Edinburgh High School following the recent approval of the Council’s City Plan 2030 by the Planning Committee.

Decision

To note the update and that a further report was scheduled to be submitted to Committee in December 2021 focussing on the outcome of the detailed work on options with a view to an informal consultation process beginning early in 2022.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 24 August 2021 (item 17); Planning Committee 29 September 2021 (item 2); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Louise Young declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the parent of children attending one of the feeder primary schools affected by the proposals.

11. Attainment in the Broad General Education

A summary was provided of the analysis of attainment in Broad General Education (BGE) for City of Edinburgh’s primary schools for the year 2020-21. Members noted the decline in attainment attributable to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the contributing factors over the year as well as the next steps proposed to target this decline and monitor its progress.

Decision

- 1) To note the update regarding this position in educational attainment in Edinburgh primary schools within the Broad General Education for session 2020-21.
- 2) To agree the next steps as outlined in section 5 of the report.

- 3) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment/improvements in performance.

(Reference – Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

12. Education Standards and Quality Report 20-21 (Part 2) Learning, Teaching and Assessment

A summary was provided of the progress and impact within Teaching, Learning and Assessment. The report followed on from Part 1 presented at the August Committee meeting and as well as an overview of progress, the report detailed the planned actions that would be undertaken to provide support and challenge schools to drive continuous improvement.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and impact, within Teaching, Learning & Assessment, reported in this section (part 2) of the S&Q report.
- 2) To agree the next steps set out in Sections 5.1 to 5.3 of the report.
- 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report be reported to Committee as required.

(Reference – Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

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

An interim update on the implementation of the 'Language and Literacy Collaboration' in Dalry Primary School was presented. The report noted the ongoing work on the capacity-building approach to provision of English as an Additional Language to learners across all schools in Edinburgh, and updated members on how support was being delivered specifically in Dalry Primary School to adjust and engage with this approach.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing work to develop a sustainable, equitable and capacity building approach to provision for English as an Additional Language to learners across all schools.
- 2) To note the ongoing work to support Dalry Primary School to adjust and engage with this approach.
- 3) To note progress with the next steps previously agreed by Committee on 18 May 2021.

- 4) To submit an update report in December 2021 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.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 18 May 2021 (item 6); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

14. Award of Contract for Young Carer Services

Members were advised that three local authority schools in Edinburgh (James Gillespie’s High, Niddrie Mill Primary and Tollcross Primary) had been granted the “We Care, Schools for Young Carers Award” demonstrating their success in identifying and supporting young carers and recognising the contribution to improving outcomes for young carers.

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 the positive recognition of progress with implementing young carer supports indicated in three schools receiving the “We Care, Schools for Young Carers Award”.

(Reference – Report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

15. Discover! In Partnership with Edinburgh Community Food

Information was provided on the *Discover!* programme which had been established to reduce child poverty, address food and financial security and learning loss during the school holidays. The city-wide programme was led by a Planning Group incorporating the Strategic Creativity, Health and Wellbeing Team, locality officers, the transport team in partnership with Edinburgh Community Food.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that officers continue to work in partnership with Edinburgh Community Food to deliver the *Discover!* programme.
- 3) To award Edinburgh Community Food a grant of £111,000 each year for the continued provision of Discover in a Box and other aspects of a strong and evolving partnership.
- 4) To note that *Discover!* contributed to the End Poverty Edinburgh Delivery Plan.
- 5) To receive a further update report on progress in October 2022.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 December 2020 (item 9) and 18 May 2021 (item 10); report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

16. Distribution of Scottish Government Asylum, Migration and Integration Funds

Information was provided on how the Council proposed to distribute the Scottish Government Asylum, Migration and Integration funding to improve the mental health of young refugees and separated children in Edinburgh.

Decision

To note the action taken by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, in consultation with the Convener, to award the Scottish Government Asylum, Migration and Integration funding of £76,981 to the Mental Health Foundation under the urgency procedure set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.

(Reference – report by the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

17. End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report – Referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

The Policy and Sustainability Committee had referred the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report to this Committee for further scrutiny on specific actions relating to child poverty.

Members discussed the report particularly in relation to Appendix 1, section 4.5 relating to progress achieved during 2021 and key priority areas agreed for 2022 to address inequalities and availability of opportunities to progress in life.

Decision

To note the report

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee 5 October 2021 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

18. Internal Audit: Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 11 August 2021

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

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 21 September 2021 (item 4); Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted)