

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 27 April 2023

Present:

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Bruce (substituting for Councillor Cowdy for item 12), Burgess (with the exception of item 6.1), Cowdy (with the exception of item 12), Davidson, Jones, Key, Kumar, Mattos Coelho, O'Neill (with the exception of item 22), Walker and Young.

Added Members for Education Items

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell and Dr Ruhy Parris.

Secondary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Alexander Ramage (non-voting)

Primary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Louise Collingwood (non-voting)

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 31 January 2023 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Committee's work programme updated to April 2023 was presented.

Decision:

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 27 April 2023, submitted)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The rolling actions log updated to April 2023 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 2 – Response to Consultation on Education Reform

- Action 3A – Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Delivery of School Sports
 - Action 3B – Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – School Sports and Extra Curricular Activities
 - Action 15 – Motion by Councillor Gardner – Information about Vaping
 - Action 16 – Motion by Councillor Cowdy – YouTube Access at High Schools
 - Action 19 – Getting it Right for Every Child – Inclusion in City of Edinburgh Schools
 - Action 25 – Technology in Education
- 2) Action 1 – Funding for Excursions for Educational Purposes – to note that a revised Business Bulletin update would be circulated to members to include information on the position relating to school trips abroad addressing mitigating the costs and poverty proofing aspects of school excursions.
 - 3) Action 10 – Voting Rights for Religious Representatives - to note that a report would be submitted to the June Council meeting on voting rights for religious representatives and to circulate details of the consultants to members.
 - 4) Action 20 – Motion by Councillor Davidson – Internet Safety – to note that a report would be submitted to the June Committee meeting.
 - 5) Action 23 – LOVE Gorgie Farm – to note that the Place Directorate were now taking the lead on this work and that EVOC were supporting establishing a consortium to take the project forward.
 - 6) Action 25 – Technology in Education – to note that Internal Audit were reviewing this issue and that a report would be submitted to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee; to request a further update to this Committee on the performance of technology in education.
 - 7) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, 27 April 2023, submitted)

4. Work Programme

The Committee's work programme updated to April 2023 was presented.

Decision:

To note the Work Programme

(Reference – Work Programme, 24 April 2023, submitted)

5. Business Bulletin

The business bulletin for 27 April 2023 was presented.

Motion

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
 - 2) To agree to provide a written briefing to members on the Speech and Language Therapy Service.
 - 3) To note that a Thematic Review of Active Schools was planned and that a report back on the outcomes would be submitted firstly to the Consultative Committee with Parents and thereafter to this Committee.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker.

Amendment

- 1) To note the update in the Business Bulletin on Gaelic Medium Education.
 - 2) To note the 'Gaelic Medium Education Secondary School Site Review' recently circulated to committee members.
 - 3) To note the decision of this committee in September 2022 that the Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) be reconvened to consider sites for a Gaelic Secondary School.
 - 4) Therefore, to agree that the GME Secondary School Site Review should be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the GIG.
- moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Kumar.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To agree to provide a written briefing to members on the Speech and Language Therapy Service.
- 4) To note that a Thematic Review of Active Schools was planned and that a report back on the outcomes would be submitted firstly to the Consultative Committee with Parents and thereafter to this Committee.
- 5) To note the update in the Business Bulletin on Gaelic Medium Education.
- 6) To note the 'Gaelic Medium Education Secondary School Site Review' recently circulated to committee members.

- 7) To note the decision of this committee in September 2022 that the Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) be reconvened to consider sites for a Gaelic Secondary School.
- 8) To agree that the GME Secondary School Site Review should be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the GIG.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 27 April 2023, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burgess declared a non-financial interest in the Business Bulletin update on Gaelic Medium Education, left the meeting and took no part in the decision on the matter.

6. Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update

An update was provided on the range of activity from Education Scotland scrutiny to local authority reviews. The main conclusions were that, while there was some outstanding and sector leading performance, more work was needed to ensure the consistency of practice in learning and teaching and raising attainment, tracking and monitoring of attainment and achievement.

Decision

- 1) To note the purpose and learning points from Education Scotland and Quality Improvement and Curriculum Service (QICS) scrutiny activity.
- 2) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through internal supported self-evaluation activity.
- 3) To agree the next steps at 5.1 – 5.3.
- 4) To record the Committee's congratulations to the Head Teacher, The Royal High School on the excellent Education Scotland Inspection Report.
- 5) To note that Hope Cottage Nursery and James Gillespie's High School GME had been shortlisted as finalists in the Scottish Education Awards.

(Reference – Report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted).

7. Edinburgh Secure Services and Residential Estate Update

An update was provided in relation to the continuous improvements from the last report submitted to Committee on 31 January 2023. Information was also provided on the ongoing work with Kibble and Aberlour Children's Charity.

Motion

- 1) To note the positive progress in the report and agree to bring further updates to the Education, Children and Families Committee.

- 2) To note the information on the ongoing work with Kibble and Aberlour Children's Charity.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the positive progress in the report and agree to bring further updates to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To note the information on the ongoing work with Kibble and Aberlour Children's Charity.
- 3) To note the positive improvements made in relation to physical restraint in the new policy.
- 4) To agree to include evidence from Aberlour and Kibble with updated guidance around physical restraints in the new Corporate Parenting module.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Key

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the positive progress in the report and agree to bring further updates to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To note the information on the ongoing work with Kibble and Aberlour Children's Charity.
- 3) To note the positive improvements made in relation to physical restraint in the new policy Relationships, Learning and Behaviour.
- 4) To agree to include evidence from Aberlour and Kibble with updated guidance around physical restraints in the new Corporate Parenting module.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 31 January 2023 (item 7); Report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services submitted).

8. Future Queensferry and Kirkliston Secondary School Provision Engagement Outcomes

summary was provided of responses following the conclusion of an informal engagement process with the Queensferry and Kirkliston communities.

It was acknowledged that over 800 people had responded to the engagement with overwhelming support being expressed for a new secondary school in Kirkliston. Further details were then provided regarding next steps.

Decision

- 1) To note the key message arising from engagement with the Queensferry and Kirkliston communities regarding the future of secondary school provision is that there should be a new secondary school built in Kirkliston.
- 2) To note that options to deliver a Kirkliston High School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site or to the east of Kirkliston would continue to be developed and outcomes reported to Committee on 5 September 2023.
- 3) To note that a fully costed educational operating model for a new secondary school in Kirkliston would be produced to inform future consultation and allow an assessment of the educational benefits and disbenefits of a new Kirkliston High School.
- 4) To agree that engagement with the communities of Ratho, Newbridge and Ratho Station be undertaken during May and June to seek views on the realignment of Ratho Primary School and Hillwood Primary School with a new secondary school in Kirkliston.
- 5) To note that Council officers and school management continue to plan a temporary expansion strategy for Queensferry High School should that requirement arise in future years.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2022 (item 8); Report by Executive Director of Place, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Young made a transparency statement in relation to the above item as her children attended a school in the affected catchment area.

Louise Collingwood declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the Chair of Kirkliston Primary School Parent Association.

9. Learning Estate Update: 2022 based School Roll Projections and Secondary Capacity Review

A summary of the latest School Roll Projections was provided with reference being made to further actions that required to be taken or were in progress for individual schools.

Details were also provided of the ongoing review of secondary school capacities to address some of the issues identified by the school roll projections to bring capacity assessments in line with the strategic principles which were applied to the school estate.

Motion

- 1) To note the latest school roll projections attached as Appendices 1(a) and 1(b) of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

- 2) To note the actions proposed for individual schools and those already underway in Appendix 1(c).
 - 3) To note that a review of the Council's secondary school capacity methodology was underway and the intention to return a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in June 2023 detailing the review's outcomes.
 - 4) To note the pupil Generation Rates from new housing would be monitored and updated annually with school roll projections.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the latest school roll projections attached as Appendices 1(a) and 1(b) of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
 - 2) To note the actions proposed for individual schools and those already underway in Appendix 1(c).
 - 3) To note that a review of the Council's secondary school capacity methodology was underway and the intention to return a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in June 2023 detailing the review's outcomes.
 - 4) To note the pupil Generation Rates from new housing would be monitored and updated annually with school roll projections.
 - 5) To request that the Executive Director of Place report back to the June Committee meeting outlining more detailed actions proposed for the 7 Primary schools (Appendix 1(a)) and 9 Secondary schools (Appendix 1(b)) that were projected to exceed capacity within the next 2 years.
- moved by Councillor Cowdy, seconded by Councillor Jones

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the latest school roll projections as outlined in appendices 1(a) and 1(b) of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note the actions proposed for individual schools and those already underway in Appendix 1(c).
- 3) To note that a review of the Council's secondary school capacity methodology was underway and the intention to return a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in June 2023 detailing the review's outcomes.
- 4) To note the pupil Generation Rates from new housing would be monitored and updated annually with school roll projections.

- 5) To agree that the Executive Director of Place report back to the June Committee meeting outlining more detailed actions proposed for the 7 Primary schools (Appendix 1(a)) and 9 Secondary schools (Appendix 1(b)) that were projected to exceed capacity within the next 2 years.

(Reference – Report by Executive Director of Place)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Cowdy made a transparency statement as his children attended James Gillespie's High School.

10. Response to Motion by Councillor Kumar – Protected Characteristics – Care Experienced

In response to a motion by Councillor Kumar, information was provided on the work required to strengthen the awareness of care experienced as a protected characteristic within the City of Edinburgh Council.

Details were also provided on how the Council should promote the interests of Care Experienced young people and help to ensure that Care Experienced people were not directly or indirectly negatively impacted by the Council's practices or policies.

Motion

- 1) To note the motion raised at Full Council on the 24 November by Councillor Kumar - Care Experienced Protected.
 - 2) To note the work required to strengthen the awareness of this protected characteristic within the City of Edinburgh Council.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the motion raised at Full Council on the 24 November by Councillor Kumar - Care Experienced Protected.
 - 2) To note the work required to strengthen the awareness of this protected characteristic within the City of Edinburgh Council.
 - 3) To agree to offer Corporate Parenting workshop to all elected members to consider how the implications of policy/decision for Care Experienced might best be assessed; this could target members of all six executive committees.
- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the motion raised at Full Council on the 24 November by Councillor Kumar - Care Experienced Protected.
- 2) To note the work required to strengthen the awareness of this protected characteristic within the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 3) To agree to offer Corporate Parenting workshop to all elected members to consider how the implications of policy/decision for Care Experienced might best be assessed; this could target members of all six executive committees.

(References – Act of Council No. 2 of 24 November 2022; report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted).

11. Response to Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron – Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

In response to a motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, details were provided of the steps being taken in City of Edinburgh Council settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.

Councillor Cameron expressed her support for the proposals set out in the report and in particular the steps being taken in Council settings to reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention.

Councillor Flannery was heard as a local ward member and welcomed the report but stated that councillors needed to have confidence in the policies and procedures in place.

Motion

- 1) To note the motion at Full Council on the 24 November 2022 by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron - Safeguarding of Children Young People and Adults at Risk.
 - 2) To note the work underway detailing what steps were being taken in the City of Edinburgh Council settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the motion at Full Council on the 24 November 2022 by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron - Safeguarding of Children Young People and Adults at Risk.

- 2) To note the work underway detailing what steps were being taken in the City of Edinburgh Council settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.
 - 3) To note the positive improvements made in relation to physical restraint in the new policy.
 - 4) To agree to include evidence from Aberlour and Kibble with updated guidance around physical restraints in the new Corporate Parenting module.
- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Key

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the motion at Full Council on the 24 November 2022 by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron - Safeguarding of Children Young People and Adults at Risk.
 - 2) To note the work underway detailing what steps were being taken in the City of Edinburgh Council settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.
 - 3) To request a progress report to the next Education, Children and Families Committee after the conclusion of the review.
- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), amendment 1 was adjusted and amendment 2 in its entirety were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the motion at Full Council on the 24 November 2022 by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron - Safeguarding of Children Young People and Adults at Risk.
- 2) To note the work underway detailing what steps were being taken in the City of Edinburgh Council settings to firstly reduce incidences of restraint and physical intervention and secondly to improve recording of these incidents.
- 3) To note the positive improvements made in relation to physical restraint in the new policy Relationships, Learning and Behaviour.
- 4) To agree to include evidence from Aberlour and Kibble with updated guidance around physical restraints in the new Corporate Parenting module.
- 5) To agree that a progress report be submitted to the next Education, Children and Families Committee after the conclusion of the review.

(References – Act of Council No. 28 of 24 November 2022; report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted).

12. Early Years Partner Provider – Hourly Rate for Funded Early Learning and Childcare and Cross Boundary Places

(a) Deputation – National Day Nurseries Association – Edinburgh Network

The deputation advised they represented 74 partner provider nurseries in the City of Edinburgh. They expressed concerns about the sustainable rate proposed by the Council for funded early learning and childcare.

The deputation felt that the hourly rate paid to partners should support delivery of a high-quality early learning experience for all children and should reflect the cost of delivery. The rate should also allow for investment in the setting, staff, resources and physical environment and enable payment of the real Living Wage for those staff employed to deliver the funded entitlement.

The deputation's view was that local authority settings were receiving a disproportionate sum from partner providers and that funding should be provided equally among local authority, private and voluntary settings.

(b) Report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services

The outcome and findings of the review of the hourly rate paid to providers in partnership with the local authority to deliver funded hours was reported.

It was proposed to carry out a review of the sustainable rate for session 2024-2025 in January 2024 and to share the findings with committee members. The uptake of cross boundary places to ensure priority was given to Edinburgh residents would continue to be monitored.

Motion

- 1) To note the findings of the survey or partner provider prices.
 - 2) To agree the recommendation that there would be no change to the hourly rate the City of Edinburgh Council currently paid to partner providers to deliver funded early learning and childcare and therefore that the rate remain as follows:
 - £3.10 per meal
 - + £6.03 per hour for children aged 3-5 years old, which equates to £6.55 per hour
 - + £6.48 per hour for children aged 2 years old, which equates to £7.00 per hour.
 - 3) To request a full report back to Committee in December 2023.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

To delete all recommendations and replace with:

- 1) Committee notes the contents of Education, Children and Families Elected Member Briefing from January 2023 on Early Years Funding that sets out:
 - 1.1.1 For the year 22/23, CEC settings received £46,583,298 in funding for 6,125 places, giving a sum of £7,605 per child, each year exclusive of meals.
 - 1.1.2 For the year 22/23 Partner Providers received £24,073,000 in funding for 3,967 places, giving a sum of £6,068 per child, each year exclusive of meals.
 - 2) Committee further notes that:
 - 2.1 Because of this allocation of funds, children attending a CEC setting received an extra £1,537 (£7,605 - £6.068 = £1,537) of funding than children attending a Partner Provider setting.
 - 2.2 The discrepancy in the amount paid for Partner Provider settings and CEC settings has a detrimental effect on the quality of education children receive in the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector.
 - 2.3 This pattern of funding is not in line with the principle of Funding Follows the Child which should be sustainable and reflect national policy priorities, one of which is to pay the living wage to staff. The living wage has increased by 9.7%.
 - 3) Committee therefore requests a report in one cycle on the financial implications of partner providers receiving the same level of funding as those attending CEC settings.
- moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Bruce

Voting

For the motion - 9 votes

For the amendment - 2 votes

(For the motion - Councillors Burgess, Davidson, Griffiths, Key, Kumar, Mattos Coelho, O'Neill, Walker and Young.

For the amendment - Councillors Bruce and Jones.)

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the survey on partner provider prices.

- 2) To agree the recommendation that there would be no change to the hourly rate the City of Edinburgh Council currently paid to partner providers to deliver funded early learning and childcare and therefore that the rate remain as follows:
 - £3.10 per meal
 - + £6.03 per hour for children aged 3-5 years old, which equates to £6.55 per hour
 - + £6.48 per hour for children aged 2 years old, which equates to £7.00 per hour.
- 3) To request a full report back to Committee in December 2023.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 20 September 2022 (item 2); written submission from National Day Nurseries Association – Edinburgh Network, submitted; Report by Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Cowdy declared a financial interest in the above item as the NDNA deputation included the owner of a private nursery who had asked if they could pay to advertise in a magazine published by his company, left the meeting and took no part in the decision on the matter.

Louise Collingwood declared a financial interest in the above item as an employer impacted by the issues, left the meeting and took no part in the consideration of the matter.

13. Policy for the Transition from Children to Adult Support

Details were provided on the policy for the Transition from Children to Adult Support for young people with a disability which replaced the previous version that expired in 2015. The policy set out how both children's and adult services delivered the transition for young people between their services.

Motion

- 1) To approve the updated policy for the transition between Children's and Adults services for young people with a disability submitted to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in March 2023 and which had been referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To note the request from the Policy and Sustainability Committee asking for a further report in 2 cycles providing an update on the policy and addressing the issues raised by members including why the policy had not been updated before now, the impact not having an updated policy had had on young people affected and consultation with young people making the transition.

- 3) To note that the procedure document would be brought back to this Committee.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To approve the updated policy for the transition between Children's and Adults services for young people with a disability submitted to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in March 2023 and which had been referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To note the request from the Policy and Sustainability Committee asking for a further report in 2 cycles providing an update on the policy and addressing the issues raised by members including why the policy had not been updated before now, the impact not having an updated policy had had on young people affected and consultation with young people making the transition and that the report should also be circulated to members of the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 3) To request a report on the implementation of the policy at the scheduled September 2023 meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To approve the updated policy for the transition between Children's and Adults services for young people with a disability submitted to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in March 2023 and which had been referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To note the request from the Policy and Sustainability Committee asking for a further report in 2 cycles providing an update on the policy and addressing the issues raised by members including why the policy had not been updated before now, the impact not having an updated policy had had on young people affected and consultation with young people making the transition and that the report should also be circulated to members of the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 3) To request a report on the implementation at the scheduled September 2023 meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 4) To note that the procedure document would be brought back to this Committee.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee 21 March 2023 (item 6); report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted)

14. Drake Music, National Youth Choirs of Scotland and The Real David Cameron Grant Awards

The Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service had received annual grants for the Youth Music Initiative and Creative Learning Networks from Creative Scotland and Education Scotland respectively.

Due to the highly specialised nature of the work, the need for continuity and funders' requirements, open recruitment and/or obtaining three quotes was not realistic.

To formalise payments, officers had identified that a grant to each delivery partner would provide the stability and quality assurance required.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree to officers continuing to work in partnership with Drake Music and the National Youth Choirs of Scotland (NYCoS) to deliver the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) programme in Edinburgh Primary and Special Schools.
- 3) To agree to award Drake Music a grant of up to £30,000 per year for the continued provision of the Council's YMI programme.
- 4) To agree to award NYCoS a grant of up to £60,000 per year for the continued provision of the Council's YMI programme.
- 5) To agree to officers continuing to work in partnership with The Real David Cameron to deliver Creative Conversations in Edinburgh.
- 6) To agree to award The Real David Cameron a grant of up to £12,000 per year for the continued development and delivery of Creative Conversations and related Creative Learning Network activity.

(Reference – report by Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted)

15. Attainment in the Senior Phase

A summary was provided of the key outcomes in relation to attainment in City of Edinburgh Council secondary schools for the Senior Phase (S4 to S6) for the academic session 2021-22 focussing on the attainment of school leavers.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the Senior Phase in City of Edinburgh secondary schools, during session 2021-22.

- 2) To note the continued hard work of young people, staff, parents and carers to support the successful delivery of qualifications in session 2021-22.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the Senior Phase in City of Edinburgh secondary schools, during session 2021-22.
 - 2) To note the continued hard work of young people, staff, parents and carers to support the successful delivery of qualifications in session 2021-22.
 - 3) To agree that officers liaise with schools and actively promote free school meals and offer support for families to apply for this.
- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the Senior Phase in City of Edinburgh secondary schools, during session 2021-22.
- 2) To note the continued hard work of young people, staff, parents and carers to support the successful delivery of qualifications in session 2021-22.
- 3) To agree that officers liaise with schools and actively promote free school meals and offer support for families to apply for this.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2022 (item 1); report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted)

16. Attendance – Thematic Review

An update was provided regarding the continuing actions being taken to maximise attendance across schools. Disruptions to school opening continued to impact attendance of particular cohorts of learners and information was provided on strategies in place to support children and young people who were returning to school after a period of absence.

Decision

To note the update on the continuing actions being taken to maximise attendance across schools.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2022 (item 19); report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted)

17. Home Education and Flexi-Schooling

An update was given on the current situation regarding Home Education and Flexi Schooling within City of Edinburgh Council schools.

Information was provided on the numbers of pupils flexi-schooled in City of Edinburgh schools, the impact upon wellbeing and attainment of those children, class management and the challenges for teachers and pupils arising from the operation of flexi-schooling.

Decision

To note that the Scottish Government were due to issue new guidance on Home Education and Flexi-Schooling to all local authorities in 2024 and that the City of Edinburgh Council had participated in the consultation around the guidance and provided feedback on the draft document.

(References – Act of Council No. 38 of 9 February 2023; report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted)

18. Health and Wellbeing Update

An update was provided on the main areas of focus and approaches to supporting the health and wellbeing of children, young people and staff teams, across City of Edinburgh's schools.

Supporting mental and emotional wellbeing continued to be a priority across all settings. Refreshing and planning for all areas of Health and Wellbeing in the curriculum was a focus in School Improvement Planning Guidance for 2022/23.

The Health and Wellbeing National Census had provided detailed feedback from learners in relation to health and wellbeing. This information was currently being analysed in relation to the national level data recently shared by the Scottish Government.

Decision

- 1) To note the achievements and next steps in Health and Wellbeing in City of Edinburgh schools.
- 2) To note the continued hard work of teams across departments within City of Edinburgh, staff in schools and partners to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- 3) To provide a Business Bulletin update on provision of defibrillators in schools.

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

19. South-East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC) Update

Details were provided of progress within the South-East Improvement Collaborative with a focus on work within the City of Edinburgh Council.

An update of work undertaken during the period August 2022 to March 2023 was also submitted together with identified next steps.

Decision

- 1) To note the added value provided through links across the South-East Improvement Collaborative.
- 2) To note the participation of Edinburgh Schools and staff in a range of South-East Improvement Collaborative Networks.

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

20. Behaviours of Concern

A summary was provided of self-evaluation activity, including a Thematic Review, investigating the impact of actions taken over several sessions to minimise and manage behaviours of concern in the city's schools.

This included desk top analysis of data, feedback from specialist staff, questionnaires, and focus groups in a sample of schools. The analysis concluded that while good progress had been made in ensuring Behaviours of Concerns were managed, understood and reduced, work should be continued to improve consistency, and to ensure that new staff, including school leaders, were supported and trained appropriately.

Decision

- 1) To note the significant efforts and continued partnership between staff in schools, central officers and trades unions to minimise, manage, report and keep under review dysregulated behaviours/behaviours of concern.
- 2) To agree that a follow-through report be brought back to Committee within 18 months.

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

21. Children's Social Care

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Information was provided on the programme of due diligence and review being undertaken across Children's Services.

Decision

Detailed in the confidential schedule to this minute as signed by the Convener.

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