


Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths</p> 	<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Glasgow Councillor Kumar Councillor Hyslop Councillor Graham Councillor Young Councillor Burgess Councillor O’Neill Councillor Cowdy Councillor Jones Councillor Davidson</p> <p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Angela Campbell</p> <p>Dr May Ruhyyih Parris</p> <p>Parent Representatives Alexander Ramage secondary sector parent representative</p> <p>Sara Collins and Louise Collingwood (the role will be undertaken on a shared basis)</p>	<p>Nickey Boyle, Executive Support 0131 469 5725</p>

Updates	Background/Contact
<p>Tynecastle Community Wing – Rolling Actions Log Item 42 January 2024</p> <p>Recent changes to external lets using the Tynecastle Community Wing were made due to Health and Safety concerns.</p> <p>The Tynecastle Community Wing is a separate wing within Tynecastle High School for community use, but it does not have dedicated Council staff. Public access to the Community Wing is via a separate entrance from the school. However, the internal door between the Community Wing and the school is not secure (for fire safety reasons), meaning access to the school by the public cannot be managed.</p> <p>Until September 2023, as part of a pilot, the 20 Minute Neighbourhood Team occupied the Community Wing, ensuring a Council staff presence. From September 2023 when the pilot ended, there was no longer Council staff within the wing. As a result, the risk of unauthorised access to the school became unacceptably high. To mitigate the risk, two organisations with external lets were found alternative local venues, at suitable times and no cost.</p> <p>The longer-term risk mitigation is to instal a Fob System on the internal door. Work is underway to establish this is an option and to identify a budget for its installation and ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>The Gorgie Dalry Forum expressed concern that the Community Wing was potentially no longer available for use by the community and invited officers to attend a meeting in October 2023.</p> <p>Officers confirmed that re-locating the two organisations was to address Health and Safety concerns. A commitment was made that the Gorgie Dalry Forum will be kept updated on any discussions around the future of Tynecastle Community Wing.</p> <p>With this comes the opportunity to involve the school and Gorgie Dalry Forum to assess what partnership actions are needed to ensure the Community Wing can be developed for more and safe community access.</p>	<p>Linda Lees, Wider Achievement Service Manager</p>
<p>Child Protection Resource</p> <p>As from Monday 8 January 2024, Children’s Services Social Work will be introducing a new Child Protection Resource which will manage all new child protection concerns and IRDs for children and young people who do not have an existing allocated social worker. Social work locality teams will continue to</p>	<p>Karen Pedder, Head of Early Intervention</p>

<p>manage any new child protection concerns and Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRD) for children and young people who have an allocated worker.</p> <p>It is anticipated the new resource will enhance and improve existing inter-agency relationships and processes between Police Scotland, NHS Lothian and Council Education Services to create a more responsive and quality service for Edinburgh’s Children, Young People and their families.</p> <p>If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Anne Fitzpatrick anne.fitzpatrick1@edinburgh.gov.uk in the meantime.</p>	
<p>Justice Services – Spotlight on: The Willow Service, Edinburgh Women’s Justice Centre</p> <p>The Willow Service was established in 2009 and works in partnership with NHS Lothian and Third Sector organisations to deliver a service to women aged 18+, who are involved in the Justice System. The Service has trauma informed and gender specific principles embedded in the design in keeping with the research and evidence base relating to this population. The interventions, supports and opportunities offered take account of the prevalence and impact of complex trauma in the population. There is a strong mental health emphasis to support women’s recovery, improve self-efficacy and support a move away from situations that potentially expose the women themselves or others to risk. The Willow Service is made up of a well-established integrated multi-disciplinary team comprising of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Workers; • Psychologists; • General Nurse; • Justice Workers; • Justice Support Workers; • Nutritionist (Edinburgh Community Food – Third Sector partner) • Peer Supporters (Willow graduates) <p>We also work in partnership with Edinburgh Women’s Aid; Edinburgh and Midlothian Recovery Support Service (EMORSS) and SHINE (Access to Industry).</p> <p>Interventions are designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address the psycho-social, health and welfare needs to improve health, wellbeing and safety. • support access into universal services and community involvement. • reduce risk to others or self, and risks women may be exposed to from others. • co-ordinate service provision, focused on recovery and desistance. 	<p>Colette Wormleighton, Sector Manager, GW Willow Project</p>

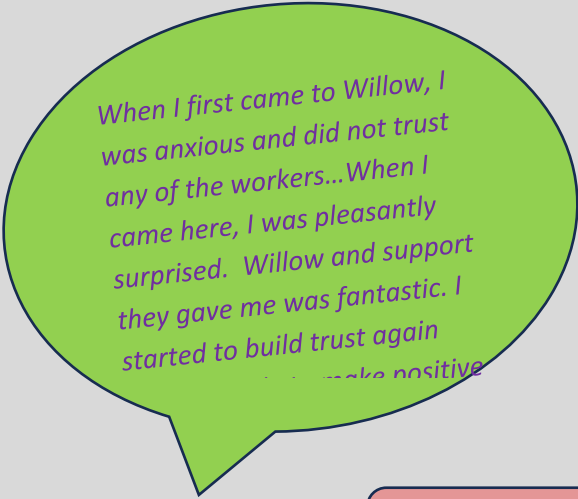
- supports pathways into new identities.

Specific interventions include:

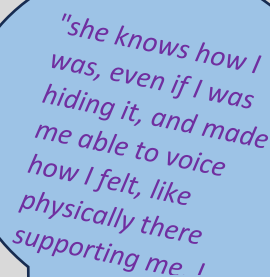
- Survive and Thrive (Stage one trauma intervention)
- Routine mental health screening and pathways into treatment/intervention
- Routine physical health screening and liaison with/access to mainstream provision
- Health programme
- Reaching In and Reaching Out programme to promote participation and inclusion
- Proactive assertive outreach to support engagement and community connections.
- Therapeutic group and one to one provision
- Peer support groups and 1:1 sessions – women supporting women
- Just Us – a women’s group that raises awareness of women’s journeys and their experience of stigma/barriers to services

Following a recent service review we have expanded, enabling us work with all women involved with Justice Services for the duration of their involvement. This enables us to adopt a ‘no wrong door’ approach and avoids re-traumatising women often with histories of complex trauma. This also improves continuity of care and creates seamless pathways for women to access the wide range of intervention available irrespective of reason for involvement. Dedicated provision for all women, has been a vision for Justice Services for many years and we now have a newly refurbished women’s centre that provides a central hub where women can access a range of services and where partners can work collaboratively.

What women say about their experience of the Willow Service:



When I first came to Willow, I was anxious and did not trust any of the workers...When I came here, I was pleasantly surprised. Willow and support they gave me was fantastic. I started to build trust again



"she knows how I was, even if I was hiding it, and made me able to voice how I felt, like physically there supporting me"



"I feel safe here"



Response to Council Question by Councillor Faccenda, 28 September 2023

Sheila Haig, Customer Manager, Customer and Digital Services

Councillor Faccenda requested a Committee report clarifying the Council’s Clothing Grants application procedure, related uptake considerations and intercation with Edinburgh School Uniform Bank. It was agreed with Councillor Faccenda that a Business Bulletin update would be appropriate.

- Officers are keen to collaborate with Edinburgh School Uniform Bank (ESUB) and there has already been positive engagement that has helped shaped the process. This will be an ongoing activity.
- The Council is committed to make it easier to access support and various improvements have been introduced, including automating entitlement for free school meals and clothing grant awards. These activities have driven a 61% increase in uptake between 2019/20 and 2022/23, with a similar upward trend this year. Work continues to identify families in need.
- The Council’s means tested criteria mirrors national legislation/guidance. The Council continues to signpost citizens that do not meet the criteria to other supporting organisations.

How many families in P1-5 are eligible but are not receiving clothing grant and/or holiday payments

It is not possible to identify families in P1 to P5 that are eligible but not receiving free school meals/clothing grants (FSM/CG). The FSM automation automatically awards all children if their parent/carer has an active Council Tax

Reduction (CTR) and/or Housing Benefit (HB) claim and satisfies the income based eligibility criteria. If parents/carers are not claiming CTR and/or HB the Council does not hold the relevant information to identify if the income-based eligibility criteria is met.

How earlier opening of the application process can help families get everything ready for the new school year

The Scottish Government sets the FSM eligibility criteria annually, which then determines the Council's School Clothing Grant process. The application process cannot open until the criteria has been set. As part of the Council's improvement activities an automatic award process has been introduced to ensure as many children as possible receive the support without the need for an application (almost 6000 young people received an award in this way in 2023). Parents are notified of their auto-award in advance of the scheme opening, and receive payment at the start of June. A simple, consolidated online process for FSM/CG and holiday payments is available for families that are required to apply.

All schools are advised when the application process opens and are encouraged to engage and support parents in the application process. The scheme is also promoted on social media. The Council website also signposts additional support available from other organisations, including ESUB and The Edinburgh Police Fund for Children.

Processing resource is also redirected to this important task to ensure that applications received by mid-July receive a payment in advance of the new school year.

How can we ensure families with NRPF families are aware of ESUB and can use their services

Families with no recourse to public funds can apply for FSM/CG and this is referenced in appropriate communications and engagements. The Refugee & Migration Team also assist refugees to complete applications. If a family does not qualify for the award they are directed to other means of support.

How the application for school clothing grant can be simplified and made more accessible including running sessions in schools

The team regularly review the online application process and changes are made to make it as simple as possible. The process is also benchmarked with other councils to identify improvement opportunities. To assist with the application process third parties can complete the form on behalf of families/carers (e.g. school staff, friends, family members, support workers).

The Customer Team continues to promote the availability of free school meals and clothing grants to schools in a regular blog and undertakes community outreach activities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending school events e.g. parent consultation sessions • monthly financial welfare surgeries in schools e.g. Gracemount and St Catherine's Primary • providing welfare benefits awareness sessions for school staff and other relevant groups e.g. council's partners involved in temporary accommodation, refugee sessions etc. <p>These activities require close coordination between services and this will continue to be an important focus during 2024.</p>	
<p>Statutory Consultation Outcome Reports</p> <p>On 5 September 2023 The Education, Children and Families Committee approved a report which confirmed three statutory consultations for St Catherine's RC Primary School, a new Primary School in Queensferry and a new Kirkliston High School would progress.</p> <p>The consultations have now been completed and the outcome reports for the consultations will be considered by Council on 8 February 2024. In line with the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2014 as amended the outcome reports were published on the Council's website on 18 January 2023.</p> <p>The outcome reports recommend that the sites proposed in the statutory consultation proposals for a new High School in Kirkliston, a replacement St Catherine's RC Primary School and a new primary school at Builyeon Road in Queensferry are all approved.</p>	<p>Crawford McGhie, Head of Strategic Asset Planning</p>
<p>Teams Around the Learning Community Update (TALC)– Rolling Actions Log Item 5</p> <p>The Team Around the Learning Community project aims to improve outcomes for children and young people by ensuring that the services within each secondary school catchment area are coherent without fragmentation and repetition. These services include those delivered by school staff, wider City of Edinburgh Council staff and voluntary sector services paid for by various funding streams.</p> <p>Currently schools pay for a range of services from the voluntary sector using equity funding. We have in collaboration with colleagues from commissioning and procurement developed a procurement framework to ensure that this spend is compliant with the City of Edinburgh's Contract Standing Orders and that it delivers best value. This framework is called Accredited Pathways and Certified Counsellors and Therapists and goes live in March.</p> <p>Officers from different departments within the directorate are working together to produce a comprehensive service map across all of the 23 learning communities with a view to working together to identify opportunities for integrated service design.</p>	<p>Stephen Kelly, Head of Education (Seconded) SE Curriculum & Senior Phase</p>

The funding from the Strategic Equity Fund has been awarded to learning community projects that focus on developing a 'team' approach and we are seeing evidence of Headteachers working together to co-construct approaches in raising attendance, developing curricular pathways and improving the transition experience in their learning community.

A more focussed approach to Team Around the Learning Community (TALC) service design is being explored as proof of concepts in two communities, Craigroyston and Liberton. This has started with a consultation to support the development of a more coordinated approach to partnership and support for children and young people across the learning community. Learning from this process will be used to co-construct a template for consultation and partnership development that can be scaled up sustainably in other learning communities.

Views are being gathered from young people, parents and carers and will be reviewed in conjunction with the views of school staff, officers and community partners. This data will inform the co-design of strategies to mitigate the impact of poverty that will include decisions on pupil equity fund spending and how best to develop partners through the accredited pathways framework. This approach to a place-based integrated service design aligns to the wider work of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 3 – A Good Place to Live. Senior council officers and LAYC representatives have engaged in all stages of the consultation and action-planning process with local partners. YouthLink Scotland is facilitating the enquiry process and synthesis of the data gathered to build towards a collaborative plan of action.

A GIRFEC-centred early intervention and prevention TALC strategy is being developed, underpinned by the strategic direction from The Edinburgh Children's Partnership and a shared commitment to poverty prevention. The key outcomes include the Edinburgh Imperatives (Attendance; Literacy & Numeracy Poverty Related Attainment Gap), care experienced data, out of authority spend and public health data. A data dashboard is being designed to track the measurable KPIs