


Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 16 April 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 – Further update – Item 32 Rolling Actions Log</p> <p>Changes to external lets using the Tynecastle Community Wing were made in the autumn of 2023 due to Health and Safety concerns.</p> <p>The Tynecastle Community Wing is a separate wing for community use within Tynecastle High School, 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 could not 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 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>A fob system has now been organised to mitigate this risk.</p> <p>On 15 March 2024, the Finances and Resources Committee agreed to award a long lease of the South Bridge Resource Centre to Edinburgh Fringe Festival Society. Together with the installation of a fob system, this opens new potential for using Tynecastle Community Wing more, including to accommodate adult learning, ESOL and other classes within the community.</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>Responding to the Housing Emergency Declaration</p> <p>On 27 February 2024, Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee received an update on the engagement with stakeholders on the Housing Emergency Declaration and approved the actions to be progressed to address this. The report also outlines the approach to programme tracking, monitoring and reporting.</p>	<p>Derek McGowan, Service Director, Housing & Homelessness</p>
<p>Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 for consultation</p> <p>The Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee approved the draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan for consultation on 15 December. The Plan details how the city must adapt to deal with the shocks and stresses caused by climate change and includes</p>	<p>Climate Change & Sustainability – Corporate Services</p>

actions on public health and the built environment, including schools. The Plan aligns with climate justice principles and guaranteeing a Just Transition for all our citizens. This includes working collaboratively with communities, ensuring no one is negatively impacted by climate change, to ensure a just transition and climate justice remains at the core of decision-making.

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and a Nature Emergency in 2023. A key ambition of Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy was the development of the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan to continue the process of adapting the city to the impacts of climate change. The Edinburgh Adapts Partnership has led this work on behalf of the city.

The draft Plan has 8 priority themes:

- Planning and the built environment
- Water management and resilience
- Coastal adaptation
- Sustainable transport
- Safeguarding and enhancing our natural environment
- Strong, healthy community and economy
- Building understanding of climate risk
- Governance and risk

A 12-week citywide public consultation on the draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2023-2030 has been launched. During this period, a number of engagement exercises will be held, including workshops targeting the city's public, private and third sectors and internal partner workshops to ensure that the actions in the plan assigned to them are correct and align with their organisational priorities.

A final version of the plan will be brought to Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval following the consultation period. The consultation launched on 15th January and responses can be submitted using the following link:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/climate-ready-edinburgh> from this date.

Contact for further information

climatechange@edinburgh.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

Link to previous committee report:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s60571/7.4%20-%20Learning%20for%20Sustainability.pdf>

A future report can be provided to committee in September 2024 to give an update on the work to address climate change.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) Update – Rolling Action Log item 35.

Kathy Henwood,
Service Director
Children and Justice
Services

- a) Any update on responses from the Scottish Government on this matter
There has been nothing forthcoming though active discussions are still being sought by CEXs through the Home Office and COLSA - so it is still very much on the radar.
- b) Any update related to supporting refugees, asylum seeking young people, including those with no recourse to public funds, that also goes to Housing, Homeless and Fair Work Committee. c) Updates on the Next steps set out in section 5:

5.1 We will require to consider how we deploy and support staffing resources to continue to provide the required level of service. If we are successful in reducing accommodation costs, there may be an opportunity to divert funding to provide enhanced staffing levels.

Update:

We have pulled some staffing resource into the pilot Edge of Care service who are successfully supporting young people aged 16 plus at home or in the local community and out of residential care. This is a 'make do' provision until we secure the additional staffing required. This support working alongside our practice team staff is managing to meet the main demands.

5.2 With the right staffing resource, other accommodation options could be progressed at pace, with a renewed campaign to recruit supported lodgings, specialist foster care and /or community-based options.

Update:

We have agreed through CLT to upscale our independent accommodation options, for a further 18 months and increasing capacity to offer 30 bed places. This will offset the need for emergency residential care and will be fully realised when the staffing recruitment is achieved -for which there are plans in place to progress in the next 3 months.

5.3 This would enable greater dialogue with other Local Authorities and contribution to the national debates around UASC and contextual safeguarding.

Update:

We have been part of discussions with Scottish Government and the national child protection team around contextual safeguarding and the issues specific to UASCs. This work is being led by Rose Howley, Service Director, Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Officer.

Additional Update

Report to Education, Children and Families Committee in January 24 setting out unprecedented demand around Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the pressure on services.


There have been further significant increases in arrivals, with 7 young people presenting almost nightly over one week. Many presented the same account, seeking support in the early hours of the morning, reporting to be of Vietnamese origin, having escaped from some 'garden'/'workplace'.

Others have been assessed through the Home Office and determined as over 18 years then presented in Edinburgh as younger, therefore requiring full age assessment and appropriate accommodation, with potential need to come into care. There is a clear level of organisation around these young people, and their accounts refer to exploitation, harm and abuse. These all require dedicated support.

To meet demand and the potential trajectory, we are seeking the required increased accommodation options, within the context of a housing crises. We are recruiting to the additional posts as no other funding stream or internal resource is available. This will be a further uncosted budget pressure, but again offset by savings in residential care where possible and Home Office reimbursement.

We are looking with COSLA, Home Office and other Local Authorities to raise the challenges faced, the lack of full reimbursement costs and any learning to practice.

Celebrating 25 years of disability fostering



This year is a very special landmark for our award-winning Foster Care team as it is 25 years since the specialist disability carers scheme was launched. We celebrated the occasion with an inspiring anniversary event in the City Chambers this week where current carers came together with their children, to share their experiences, successes, and stories.

Over the years, the service has supported 100s of children previously 'lost' in residential care to enable them to grow up in caring family situations in their communities. In the past, many children went into residential care, initially for short periods to help with a family crisis such as the birth of a brother or sister or ill health of a parent but ended up staying for years. Some were in residential units due to child protection concerns, or due to complex needs and challenging behaviour.

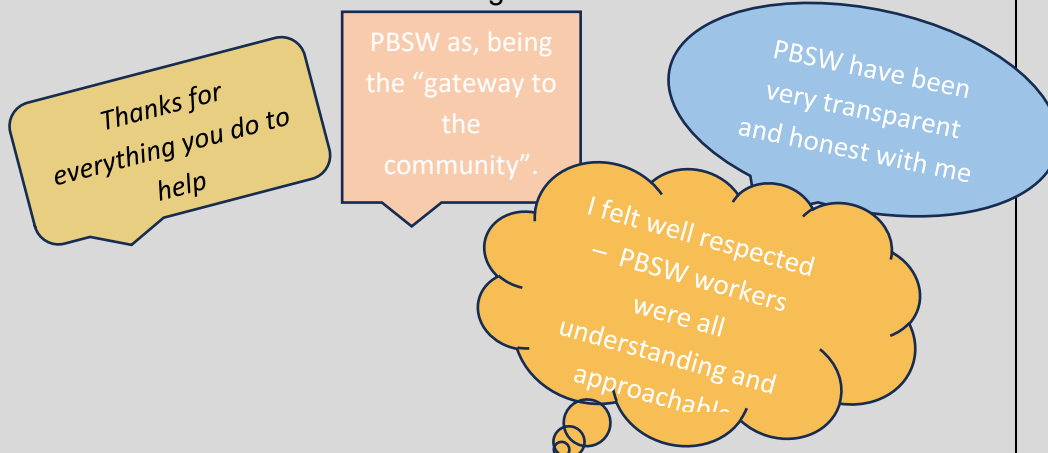
At that time, there were no full-time carers for children with disabilities, and the goal of the new service was to find families for these children. However, few foster carers had the additional skills and experience needed. The specialist disability service was launched with the aim of recruiting full-time carers who had previous experience of

Steve Harte, Head of Corporate Parenting

<p>supporting children with disabilities. They received enhanced fees to cover the additional costs associated with the role.</p> <p>Now, 25 years on, the service has grown considerably, and many carers now foster mainstream children alongside children with disabilities. This benefits everyone, allowing brothers and sisters to stay together.</p> <p>To mark the anniversary, the Foster with Edinburgh disability service is calling out for new disability foster carers The service is looking for new short breaks, temporary or permanent carers, particularly those who have transferable skills or knowledge in caring or working with children with disabilities.</p> <p>One of the Senior Practitioners who has been part of the disability foster team for almost two decades said:</p> <p><i>It has been my privilege to work with some amazing carers over the past 19 years, and to witness the life changing care they have provided, often against the odds.</i></p> <p><i>Resilience, tenacity and humour are key characteristics of disability carers. Through support and development groups and their own informal networks there is a strong sense of belonging and a shared identity.</i></p>	
<p>Justice Services – Spotlight on Prison Based Social Work (PBSW), HMP Edinburgh Scottish Prison Service (SPS)</p> <p>PBSW is part of the wider Justice Services, provided by The City of Edinburgh Council. PBSW at HMP Edinburgh supports an average of between 850 and 950 individuals who form a diverse male population which includes individuals serving short-term sentences, long term sentences, remand, offence protection (sexual offences), non-offence protection (excluding sexual offences), Life sentence, Extended sentence and Order of Lifelong Restriction.</p> <p>The PBSW team is a highly skilled and experienced group of colleagues who are motivated to deliver the best possible service to all our stakeholders, including Community Based Social Work, Police Scotland, SPS, Parole Board for Scotland and Third Sector.</p> <p>This includes, preparing risk assessments which inform all key aspects of risk management for the individual and their journey through their custodial sentence, attending multi-agency meetings such as Integrated Case Management meetings, Risk Management Team meetings, Programme Case Management Board meetings, Progression and Parole considerations and providing a duty service.</p> <p>Within the prison setting, individuals can access a range of interventions aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing individual identified risk and need factors, including health and welfare needs; • supporting reintegration into the community and engagement with relevant service providers; • reducing the risk of future reoffending and increasing public protection; • supporting recovery, desistance and pro-social lifestyles. 	<p>Carey Fuller, Head of Justice Services</p>

PBSW works within a trauma informed approach, working with a high proportion of individuals experiencing past or current trauma, affected by substance use and experiencing both poor physical and mental health. The team also offer child and adult protection training to SPS colleagues to increase awareness of this and are the single point of contact when child and adult protections concerns arise within HMP Edinburgh.

Feedback from individuals within HMP Edinburgh:



Feedback from Scottish Prison Service colleagues, HMP Edinburgh:

Governor - "Upon taking up post as Governor in charge of HMP Edinburgh, I was immediately impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the prison based social work team. It is really refreshing to see a fully complemented and engaging team who are delivering fully in line with the SLA. Over and above this, the social team have provided invaluable support and input into a range of initiatives across the prison and are always keen to support and explore new initiatives that will benefit those in our care. HMP Edinburgh houses a number of really complex individuals, and the social work team are always on hand to support staff in managing these types of individuals. I look forward to continuing the positive partnership working between SPS and the prison based social work team."

Deputy Governor- "The PBSW go beyond the expectations of service delivery in a manner which is both caring and supporting. They seek out opportunities to make a very real difference to those in our care and work in the true spirit of partnership to the benefit of all".

SPS Casework Manager - 'The Prison Based Social Work Team in HMP Edinburgh are an essential and integral part of the Casework Management agenda in HMP Edinburgh. They are involved with a prisoners' journey in custody, from the initial Integrated Case Management case conference, all the way through to Programmes Case Management Board, Risk Management Team meetings and Parole Hearings. I have a very good working relationship with our PBSW colleagues, and the staff and management are very accessible, willing to assist and provide advice at any moment. The service the Edinburgh Team provides is very robust in my opinion. There is no barrier to engagement across the prison, PBSW have access to every part of the estate including the residential halls and constantly provide reports and content for Parole and Risk Management purposes. I represent SPS in Parole Hearings and am often joined by PBSW colleagues from the Edinburgh Team. The professionalism and

<p>depth of knowledge they exhibit during some difficult experiences, is very impressive. There have been some changes in process for some prisoners who qualify as, “Complex Case”, scenarios recently. In relation to progressing these individuals, the onus is on PBSW to work collaboratively in the production of a Risk Management Plan. I feel the Edinburgh PBSW team have embraced this change and understand the reasons behind it. It is clear that a strong commitment to public protection is at the core of the work that HMP Edinburgh PBSW service provides.’</p>	
<p>Enhanced Support Bases – request from Full Council 8 February 2024 A briefing note was issued to all Elected Members on the 14 February 2024, providing an update on Enhanced Support Bases, and an Elected Member briefing session was held on the 20 February 2024.</p>	<p>Lynne Binnie, Head of Education (Inclusion)</p>
<p>Quality Improvement Service – Capacity & Risk Register – Item 25 Rolling Actions Log</p> <p>To raise standards in schools and ensure a consistent, robust overview of self-evaluation activity across the authority, the Capacity and Risk Register is maintained. This provides a clear summary of core self-evaluation activities and scrutiny of quantitative and qualitative data, including data analysis for learning communities.</p> <p>It provides an overall assessment of the level of capacity to improve and/or support required for each school to secure improved outcomes for learners. At the beginning of each session, the Head of Education for Quality Improvement, and officers, review each school’s capacity for continued improvement based on a range of data and identify the highest priority schools for intensive support within our proportionate model. A level of intensive, targeted or universal support is determined through the following drivers for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the school’s self-evaluation within Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan • quantitative data such as attainment, attendance, inclusion and exclusion statistics • known levels of parental engagement and satisfaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ questionnaires ○ complaints • quality of teacher professionalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ engagement with authority-led professional learning such as the Teachers’ Charter ○ leadership and masters level learning • time since last HMIE • relevant local knowledge, for example new or acting headteacher, personal circumstances, staffing, societal, environmental factors such as new school build, ASN impact or headteacher request. <p>Agreed models of intensive, targeted or universal support, are shared and agreed in consultation with each Headteacher during the first Quality Assurance visit early in term 1. This agreement informs appropriate levels of proportionate and intelligence-led</p>	<p>Jackie Reid, Head of Education (SW) Quality Improvement & Broad General Education</p>

<p>support and challenge from the Quality Improvement Team and other Council officers. It also informs centrally provided professional learning. The Capacity and Risk Register is maintained by the Quality Improvement Team and the progress of high-priority schools, who are receiving intensive support, is reviewed weekly by the Education Senior Leadership team. Any changes to agreed levels of support are discussed with headteachers.</p> <p>In addition an Attainment briefing session was also held with members on the 1 December 2024.</p>	
<p>Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 20 February 2024 – Approved motion request:</p> <p>Motion approved at Governance, Risk and Best Value committee on 20 February requesting updates for the actions in appendix 2 of the Internal Audit Open and Overdue report (actions 8, 9 and 10) – link: Item 8.2 - Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions.pdf (edinburgh.gov.uk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions 8&9 verified and closed by Internal Audit on 21/2/24 • Action 10 verified and closed by Internal Audit on 15/4/24 	<p>Gilian Tracey, Directorate Operations Manager</p>
<p>South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC)</p> <p>Following a decision taken by the current Cabinet Secretary, the Regional Improvement Collaboratives introduced by former Cabinet Secretary John Swinney in 2018 are being dissolved as formal working bodies. The aim of improving outcomes through collaboration will continue, however, building on the networks that were in place before the RICs were established, and which have been developed over the past six years, within available budgets.</p> <p>Early Years – The Early Years team continues to work closely with SEIC colleagues to take forward quality improvement in the following areas – learning and development from birth to the early years of childhood (interactions, experiences and spaces), Outdoor learning, Parental engagement, early level play pedagogy and transitions – home to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and P1. Collaboration between the authorities was in place before 2018 and effective partnership working contributed to the successful implementation of the early years’ expansion to 1140 hours of funded ELC across the SEIC.</p> <p>Quality Improvement – The City of Edinburgh (CEC) schools participate in the range of collaborative improvement networks coordinated by Regional Improvement Collaborative officers. These include:- Equity, Research Schools and Pedagogy Pioneers. A number of connector sessions are run regularly to share practice in Writing, Play Pedagogy, Learning Pathways and positive Destinations. CEC officers support regional quality improvement through undertaking data analysis of participants’ evaluations, sharing of effective quality assurance approaches and participation in the SEIC Associates’ programme as part of the Quality Improvement Network. Officers lead a number of regional subject networks and support the Association of Education Advisers programme.</p>	<p>Lorna French, Service Director of Education, and Chief Education Officer</p>

Additional Funding:

2 million for 2024/25 only to devolved school management budgets, to provide extra money for each and every ^[1]primary and secondary school.

Budget decisions have been taken in collaboration with Headteachers since the Finance Board was set up in 2018. Where budget cuts are proposed, the Finance Board seeks additional views from the Headteacher Executive. This model has been very successful in effectively gathering views to make informed decisions about proposed cuts in line with the nationally agreed principles of Devolved School Management (DSM).

In light, therefore, of the council's decision to award additional funds through the DSM process, the Budget Reference Group was reconvened at an EGM of the Finance Board on 26th March 2024. The purpose of the EGM was to agree a mechanism to disperse the funding, ensuring adherence to the DSM guidance.

Headteachers had also requested more opportunities to work together across learning communities, pooling resources and making empowered, local decisions. This is seen as especially effective to support small schools that have smaller budgets, collaborating with special schools and improving the transition experience for all.

The EGM unanimously agreed to split the allocation as follows:

1. £1m for Inclusion to be allocated to secondary schools for enhanced provision
2. £1m to Learning Communities to enable every school to benefit in taking forward their combined Learning Community Improvement Plans

The specific allocations will be determined by roll and demographics and confirmed in the report by the Finance Board to the Education, Children and Families Committee in June 2024

Lorna French, Service Director of Education, and Chief Education Officer