

# Minutes

## Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 23 January 2024

### Present:

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Burgess, Cowdy, Davidson, Glasgow, Graham Hyslop, Jones, Kumar, O'Neill, Young

### Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell, Dr Ruhy Parris (non-voting)

### Secondary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Alexander Ramage (non-voting)

## 1. Deputations

---

### a) Citadel Youth Centre

**(in-relation to item 7.14 – Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, Edinburgh 2024-26 Grant Programme)**

The deputation requested that council grants processes be re-considered to ensure that there is transparency of decision making. They felt that recommendations should be made publicly available in advance of elected members making decisions. The deputation noted that in 2016 and 2020 recommendations for third party grants to third sector organisations had been made publicly available prior to final decisions being taken by Committee. It was noted that prior to the decisions regarding Connected Communities Grants on 18 December 2023, there had been no public papers published with grant recommendations and that a public list had not been made available subsequently. The deputation noted that they would anticipate any future grants rounds, including this fund would be considered in a transparent way.

### b) Edinburgh EIS

**(in-relation to item 7.4 – Education Budget)**

The deputation noted that the Education service area receives the most money in the budget. They felt education was an investment in the future. They requested that members do not cut the education budget further. EIS research showed 73% of teachers reported the constant stress, 57% absence for mental health increase. The deputation noted an increase in young people with additional support needs. It was noted that parent councils have been echoing what the schools and headteachers have been saying. Taking a further 8.2 million would be completely detrimental to our

education system. The deputation noted that there are instances of teachers having buying pens, snacks, materials with their own money. The deputation noted the potential impact of cuts on already deprived communities.

### **c) Trinity Primary School Parent Council**

#### **(Written Deputation in-relation to item 7.4 – Education Budget)**

The challenges facing society today were well documented. The deputation noted that we are living in an era of low economic productivity and extensive global competition, with an ageing population that will require increasing levels of support to sustain and care for it.

In order to address these issues, they felt we need to be investing in education. Schools are supposed to be the places that support learners and their families, overcome differences in experience, aspiration and opportunity and equip all learners with the knowledge and skills that they need to become productive members of society. The deputation asked that members reflect on the following

1. Agree that you will do everything in your powers to ensure that the Council Gets It Right For Every Child. Ideally this will mean increasing funding from current levels to adequately deliver the service that is required, and certainly not imposing further cuts.
2. Consider whether there are other areas of council spending where cuts would have a smaller economic or social impact than in education, and prioritise these. Not all cuts in expenditure are equal in impact and to target a service that is time-limited and delivering a universal human right will do considerable harm. The Education Committee could send a strong signal here by encouraging this approach.
3. Pause any proposals to allow for proper consultation with parents and, fundamentally, with your own teaching and support staff.

### **d) Steading Owners Association – Kirkliston**

#### **(Written Deputation in-relation to item 6.1 – Business Bulletin, Statutory School Consultation Update)**

The deputation sought to summarise the timeline of consideration of options for secondary school provision in the Kirkliston area and represent the views of local residents in the Steading Owners Association. The deputation felt that more could have been done by the council to ensure participation of local residents in the Statutory Consultation process during October 2023. The deputation noted that the site of the current Kirkliston Leisure Centre was the only council-controlled site available to build a new secondary school and brought forward considerations in relation to other potential sites.

### **e) Bruntsfield Primary School Parent Council**

#### **(in-relation to item 7.4 – Education Budget)**

The deputation noted that budget cuts for teaching and support staff reductions is detrimental to classroom management. These were significantly more disproportionate to the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Cuts had the potential to reduce the imagination and the opportunities that can be built into school. Putting extra stress on those delivering the learning as well as the standard of learning. Schools can only do less with less, the gaps being filled by parents which is not sustainable as a long-term solution. The deputation noted that this was only going to get worse if the proposed budgets are approved.

#### **f) Stockbridge Primary School Parent Council**

##### **(Written Deputation in-relation to item 7.4 – Education Budget)**

The Parent Council recognised the pressure the Committee is under to find savings. they noted that this report does little robust assessment or analysis of the impact of these cuts. It also makes broad assumptions about schools' abilities to absorb further cuts on the back of an already-stretched service. they highlighted four concerns in particular. In doing so we share examples from our school of the impact cuts to the DSM can have.

1. Cutting teaching and support staff
2. Additional needs are not being met
3. Child Protection and Health and Safety
4. Impacts on Leadership

#### **g) Royal High School Parent Council**

##### **(Written Deputation in-relation to item 7.4 – Education Budget)**

The deputation noted that the report proposes a 1.2% cut to the school budget which we expect to be prorated across schools, with the Royal High School potentially being impacted by a larger cut given it is not protected in relation to the deprivation criteria. Therefore, they wished to formally log their concerns with the Education Budget proposal. Their main concerns are the following.

- Cutting teaching and support staff
- Additional needs not being met
- Impacts on leadership

The deputation requested members reflect on the proposals regarding:

1. 'Getting it right for every child'. This proposal does not. Funding levels need to, quite simply increase
2. Opportunities to explore other areas to reduce spending. Why focus on a cohort of society who will support our aging population? This proposal is short-sighted and ill thought out.

3. Support a democratic, structured consultation with the right bodies – parents, teachers and educational professionals.

## 2. Minutes

---

### Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 7 November 2023 as a correct record subject to below revision to the attendance of Religious Representatives:

#### Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Dr Ruhy Parris (non-voting)

- 2) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 18 December 2023 as a correct record subject to the below revision to the attendance of Religious Representatives:

#### Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell, Dr Ruhy Parris (non-voting)

## 3. Work Programme

---

The Committee's work programme updated to 23 January 2024 was presented.

### Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 23 January 2023, submitted)

## 4. Rolling Actions Log

---

The rolling actions log updated to January 2024 was presented.

### Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
  - **Action 3** - Attainment in the Broad General Education in Edinburgh Primary and Secondary Schools 2021-22
  - **Action 7** – RAL action 25 Technology in Education
  - **Action 11** - Policy for the Transition from Children to Adult Services
  - **Action 18** - Energy in Schools Annual Report
  - **Action 19** – Pathways
  - **Action 21** - Motion by Councillor Davidson – Free Food Provision in Schools
  - **Action 24** - Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update
  - **Action 28** - Active Schools Thematic Review Findings

- **Action 31** - Motion by Councillor McKenzie – Early Years
- 2) To note **Action 10** – Early years Partner Provider Hourly Rate - completion date to be updated to April.
  - 3) To note **Action 10**– Early years Partner Provider Hourly Rate - completion date to be updated to April.
  - 4) To note **Action 22** – Position Statement is not in the Business Bulletin, officers to check with Edinburgh Leisure and circulate to committee.
  - 5) To note **Action 23** – A briefing note regarding the Early Years Change programme to be circulated to members.
  - 6) To note **Action 14** – Sexual Harassment Illegal Campaign - Officers to update members on this action.
  - 7) **Action 23** – The date for the Gaelic Implementation Group to be circulated.
  - 8) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions
- (Reference – Rolling Actions Log, 23 January 2024, submitted)

## 5. Business Bulletin

---

The Business Bulletin for 23 January 2024 was presented.

### Decision:

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To note Tynecastle Community Wing Report will come in April
- 3) To note Climate Ready Edinburgh to be part of future business bulletin updates as agreed at Policy & Sustainability Committee

### Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young made a transparency statement in relation to item 6.1, Business Bulletin, Statutory School Consultation Update as she lives in the Kirkliston catchment area and her child would be effected by changes.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 23 January 2024, submitted)

## 6. Promoting Equality

---

This report provided a summary of activity and progress in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, involving Early Years settings, primary, secondary and special schools, the ASL Service, Quality Improvement and Curriculum Service, Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning, and partner organisations. The report Described the sustained work to raise awareness of and address discrimination and inequality. The basis of this work was intersectional, with a continued focus on Race Equality and anti-racism.

### Motion

- 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 next steps at 5.1.
  - 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan are presented annually.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

#### **Amendment 1**

- 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 next steps at 5.1.
  - 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan are presented annually.
  - 4) To note that on 1 June 2023 it was agreed at Full Council to set a working target of 100% completion rate of the Scottish Governments Stage 1 and 2 National Professional learning among Edinburgh's Primary and Secondary Teachers, in addition to a commitment to publish annual data showing progress to date towards meeting the national expectation and set out a work programme / timeline towards achieving this.
  - 5) To understand that the annual reporting on the Action Plan may be a good place to report on progress.
  - 6) To note that the motion also agreed that appropriate officers should engage directly with TIE with a view to working with them to host a launch event for the [lgbteducation.scot](https://www.lgbteducation.scot) national platform in the City Chambers emulating the success in other Local Authorities and engaging the city's headteachers, heads of department and council education officers with the opportunities that this can bring.
  - 7) To regret that while the Rolling Actions Log states the actions of the original motion have been included in the Promoting Equality Education report, there is only a cursory mention of 'promoting TIE resources and training' in the EDI Plan 2023/24 and that substantial actions agreed at Full Council remain outstanding
  - 8) To request that Officers provide a full response to the motion agreed at Full Council to Education, Children and Families in two cycles including an update on engaging with TIE to host a launch event.
- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

#### **Amendment 2**

- 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 next steps at 5.1.
- 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan are presented annually.
- 4) To note Subject to reviewing the evaluation criteria to explore whether additional opportunities for children and young people's feedback can be incorporated.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

### **Amendment 3**

- 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 next steps at 5.1.
- 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan are presented annually.
- 4) To note Committee regrets to learn of issues such as gender-based violence and transphobia contributing to increased reporting and recording in 2022-2023, therefore requests a written briefing in 2 cycles detailing:
  - Context to the difference in resources and guidance across the school estate.
  - The additional supplementary guidance on tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.
  - The bite-size guidance on supporting trans children and young people.
  - The guidance for schools on trans and non-binary inclusive sports and physical activity.
  - Other workstreams that mention tackling gender-based violence and transphobia.

- moved by Councillor O'Neil, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendments were accepted as addenda to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 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 next steps at 5.1.
- 3) To agree that updates on the work detailed in this report and the Action Plan are presented annually.
- 4) To note that on 1 June 2023 it was agreed at Full Council to set a working target of 100% completion rate of the Scottish Governments Stage 1 and 2 National Professional learning among Edinburgh's Primary and Secondary Teachers, in addition to a commitment to publish annual data showing progress to date towards meeting the national expectation and set out a work programme / timeline towards achieving this.
- 5) To understand that the annual reporting on the Action Plan may be a good place to report on progress.
- 6) To note that the motion also agreed that appropriate officers should engage directly with TIE with a view to working with them to host a launch event for the [lgbteducation.scot](https://www.lgbteducation.scot) national platform in the City Chambers emulating the success in other Local Authorities and engaging the city's headteachers, heads of department and council education officers with the opportunities that this can bring.
- 7) To regret that while the Rolling Actions Log states the actions of the original motion have been included in the Promoting Equality Education report, there is only a cursory mention of 'promoting TIE resources and training' in the EDI Plan 2023/24 and that substantial actions agreed at Full Council remain outstanding
- 8) To request that Officers provide a full response to the motion agreed at Full Council to Education, Children and Families in two cycles including an update on engaging with TIE to host a launch event.
- 9) To note subject to reviewing the evaluation criteria to explore whether additional opportunities for children and young people's feedback can be incorporated.
- 10) To note Committee regrets to learn of issues such as gender-based violence and transphobia contributing to increased reporting and recording in 2022-2023, therefore requests a written briefing in 2 cycles detailing:
  - Context to the difference in resources and guidance across the school estate.
  - The additional supplementary guidance on tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.
  - The bite-size guidance on supporting trans children and young people.



- The guidance for schools on trans and non-binary inclusive sports and physical activity.
- Other workstreams that mention tackling gender-based violence and transphobia.

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

## 7. Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update

---

This report covered a range of Education Scotland scrutiny and Local Authority reviews undertaken by the Quality Improvement Service. The relentless focus of the work of the Quality Improvement Service is to raise standards in our schools. Our model of proportionate support meant that Intensive support is provided to the schools who need it most (Priority Schools). This was informed by the information held in the Capacity & Risk Register which relates to levels of attainment, schools' self-evaluation data, information gathered through scrutiny activity and leadership capacity. Schools that were in receipt of intensive support access high quality professional learning, provided by the Edinburgh Learns Teaching and Learning Team, on a priority basis. This professional learning has been designed to develop a highly skilled workforce of teachers and practitioners who deliver high quality learning experiences consistently. Where concerns were identified, our model of intensive support has been shown to be highly effective, resulting in improvements in learners' attainment and in quality indicator evaluations.

The Edinburgh Learns Teaching, Learning & Assessment and Improving Quality in Learning Boards, have clear action plans to address areas for improvement and to share examples of strong practice. We continued to incorporate learning from scrutiny activity to strengthen models of support and challenge to raise standards to improve outcomes for learners. Progress with identified areas for improvement is tracked rigorously, on a weekly basis, by Quality Improvement Officers and is shared with the Education Senior Leadership Team monthly. This ensured actions for improvement are met within agreed timescales.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through Education Scotland and the Quality Improvement Service scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1 – 5.5.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham.

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through Education Scotland and the Quality Improvement Service scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1 – 5.5.

- 3) To note that whilst concerned by the outcome of the East Craigs inspection report, welcomes the steps that have been taken so far to improve the situation. Asks that the action plan is shared with committee members and ward councillors with regular updates being provided to both groups as to progress on the action plan.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through Education Scotland and the Quality Improvement Service scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1 – 5.5.
- 3) Committee notes with concern the Weak evaluation of East Craigs Primary school following an Education Scotland inspection in March 2023 and:
  - a) Self-evaluation and attainment data since 2018 did not prompt targeted interventions
  - b) Not until 2021/22 was targeted support provided by Quality Improvement Officer in response to local knowledge gathered, at which point intensive support was given
  - c) Further support was given as a result of self-evaluation on 27 February and 1 March but gave very little time for implementation as the school was inspected w/c 20 March.
- 4) Committee requests as a matter of urgency a further report focussed on East Craigs Primary School to include:
  - a) What was the local knowledge received which prompted the interventions in 2021/22?
  - b) What was the intensive support given for attainment and how was the effectiveness of this measured?
  - c) What were the other interventions put in place and how successful were they (to include the interventions just before the inspection took place)?
  - d) What were the inaccuracies identified by the Senior Leadership Team and officers?
  - e) How have these inaccuracies arisen?

Committee also requests that before any upcoming inspection a self-evaluation report is submitted to Committee for scrutiny as soon as the date of inspection is known.

- moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Cowdy

### **Amendment 3**

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through Education Scotland and the Quality Improvement Service scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1 – 5.5
- 3) To thank officers for work and support provided to East Craigs Primary School.
- 4) To recognise the importance of staff care and wellbeing and its impact on staff and pupils. Committee notes the high level of satisfaction that pupils and community feel from their school.
- 5) To agree to a member's briefing to ECF committee and Ward councillors to help understand support and progress to improving outcomes within the school including any intensive interventions and work has been progressed since officers were made aware of the inspection report.

- moved by Councillor Hyslop, seconded by Councillor Kumar

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendments were accepted, as adjusted, as addenda to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through Education Scotland and the Quality Improvement Service scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1 – 5.5.
- 3) to note that whilst concerned by the outcome of the East Craigs inspection report, welcomes the steps that have been taken so far to improve the situation. Asks that the action plan is shared with committee members and ward councillors with regular updates being provided to both groups as to progress on the action plan.
- 4) To note committee requests summary report in one cycle and a members workshop focussed on East Craigs Primary School to include:
  - What was the local knowledge received which prompted the interventions in 2021/22?
  - What was the intensive support given for attainment and how was the effectiveness of this measured?
  - What were the other interventions put in place and how successful were they (to include the interventions just before the inspection took place)?
  - What were the inaccuracies identified by the Senior Leadership Team and officers?
  - How have these inaccuracies arisen?

- 5) To agree the committee report to also include information on how the new headteacher is being supported ongoing to resolve the issues from the inspection report, and what changes and actions are already being implemented as well as any early insight into the impact of these.
- 6) To thank officers for work and support provided to East Craigs Primary School.
- 7) To recognise the importance of staff care and wellbeing and its impact on staff and pupils. Committee notes the high level of satisfaction that pupils and community feel from their school.
- 8) To agree to a member's briefing to ECF committee and Ward councillors to help understand support and progress to improving outcomes within the school including any intensive interventions and work has been progressed since officers were made aware of the inspection report.

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

## **8. Education Budget**

---

Almost one third of the city's budget was used to provide education for children and young people (£350m), with most of that being controlled at school level through the Devolved School Management process. DSM is a regulated process with guidelines as to decisions are taken, and a Board that oversees these. The council have forecast budget gap of £50.5m next financial year and this report provided detail of how £8.2m could be met through savings applied to DSM. A Budget Reference Group consisting of officers, and Headteachers from all sectors was consulted to shape proposals.

Within Education, in common with most other areas of the council, the biggest element of funding meets staffing costs, with the other budget lines for resources and curriculum forming a smaller portion. It is therefore unavoidable that funding cuts will have an impact on staffing groups. It should be noted however that due to rising rolls in Edinburgh and ongoing demographic investment we will continue to maintain overall numbers in compliance with the Scottish Government's commitments to teacher and support staff.

During COVID, additional non-recurring funding was distributed to support COVID recovery. These funds were distributed via DSM to provide additional teachers and support workers. The funds were then confirmed as recurring and part of the overall budget. It was predominantly these funds that have been identified for efficiencies, though the impact of COVID is noted to persist.

### **Decision**

To note the proposed options put forward but are unhappy recommending options that reduce Education budgets, in particular DSM at option 5. Our recommendation

is for referral of this paper to the Full Council for consideration but to look to mitigate the cuts identified as options 1-5, with one-off funding options as identified by the Convenor of Finance & Resources. These would mitigate against the 2024/25 budget year.

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

## **9. Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (Edinburgh) 2024-2026: Grants Programme**

---

This report detailed how the Edinburgh Children's Partnership proposes to distribute the Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Fund for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26. This was for the figure of £5.2m as a two-year grant and a further one-year fund distribution for 2025/26 which is dependent on further Scottish Government payments.

The funds should assist local Children's Services Planning Partnerships (CSPP) with the commissioning and establishment of holistic whole family wellbeing supports or services in line with the Scottish Government framework. These services should be an upscaling of existing transformational practice in order to build capacity for whole system transformational change required to reduce the need for crisis intervention shift investment towards prevention and early intervention.

As a requirement for this funding, Scottish Government directed that 'Decision making in relation to this funding is expected to be in accordance with the collective agreement and direction of the local CSPP, with accountability resting with each strategic Children's Services Planning governance forum'.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note that Scottish Government has provided Edinburgh Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPP) with Whole Family Wellbeing Fund which to date amounts to £4.1m with commitment to funds in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 2) To note that CoSLA has agreed that the Local Authority, as the co-statutory lead agency with duties in respect of Children's Services Planning, supports the CSPP ownership of this funding by holding and administering on behalf of its local CSPP.
- 3) To note that the collaborative nature of the grant model designed by the Whole Family Wellbeing working group has been approved by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership upon recommendation of the multi-agency Joint Commissioning Group (JCG).
- 4) To note that the recommended awards will be submitted to the Children's Partnership for approval and subsequently to Education, Children and Families Committee for noting, and delegate authority to the Executive

Director of Children, Education and Justice Services to implement the decisions of the Children's Partnership.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham.

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note that Scottish Government has provided Edinburgh Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPP) with Whole Family Wellbeing Fund which to date amounts to £4.1m with commitment to funds in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 2) To note that CoSLA has agreed that the Local Authority, as the co-statutory lead agency with duties in respect of Children's Services Planning, supports the CSPP ownership of this funding by holding and administering on behalf of its local CSPP.
- 3) To note that the collaborative nature of the grant model designed by the Whole Family Wellbeing working group has been approved by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership upon recommendation of the multi-agency Joint Commissioning Group (JCG).
- 4) To note that the recommended awards will be submitted to the Children's Partnership for approval and subsequently to Education, Children and Families Committee for noting, and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services to implement the decisions of the Children's Partnership.
- 5) To encourage Children's Partnership and officers to reflect on any lessons learnt from the Connected Communities Grant Funding to ensure charities and other third sector partners are appropriately consulted with.
- 6) To recommend that Children's Partnership consider the importance of locality groups in delivering services.
- 7) To recommend that Children's Partnership reconsider the eligibility criteria including the requirement that organisations have to deliver services city wide.
- 8) To recommend the partnership completes a full impact assessment of this funding.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths.

- 1) To note that Scottish Government has provided Edinburgh Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPP) with Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

which to date amounts to £4.1m with commitment to funds in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

- 2) To note that CoSLA has agreed that the Local Authority, as the co-statutory lead agency with duties in respect of Children's Services Planning, supports the CSPP ownership of this funding by holding and administering on behalf of its local CSPP.
- 3) To note that the collaborative nature of the grant model designed by the Whole Family Wellbeing working group has been approved by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership upon recommendation of the multi-agency Joint Commissioning Group (JCG).
- 4) To note that the recommended awards will be submitted to the Children's Partnership for approval and subsequently to Education, Children and Families Committee for noting, and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services to implement the decisions of the Children's Partnership.
- 5) To encourage Children's Partnership and officers to reflect on any lessons learnt from the Connected Communities Grant Funding to ensure charities and other third sector partners are appropriately consulted with.
- 6) To recommend that Children's Partnership consider the importance of locality groups in delivering services.
- 7) To recommend that Children's Partnership reconsider the eligibility criteria including the requirement that organisations have to deliver services city wide.
- 8) To recommend the partnership completes a full impact assessment of this funding.

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

## **10. Hong Kong Scotland Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP)**

---

This report provided information about opportunities for Edinburgh secondary schools to develop partnerships with schools in Hong Kong. The programme was devised by Archie McGlynn, former Chief Inspector of Schools in Scotland. On retirement from HMIE, Archie took up a post in the Ministry of Education in Hong Kong and developed a quality improvement framework based on How Good is Our School. In 2016 Archie and three Edinburgh schools (Boroughmuir, James Gillespie's and the Royal High School) formed an international collaboration between Scotland and Hong Kong on school improvement. The programme ran until the pandemic with visits from Hong Kong Schools to Edinburgh on 3 occasions and 1 visit of Edinburgh Schools to Hong Kong (fully funded by the Swire Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh). All the Hong Kong schools are state run schools.

### **Motion**

To note the content of this report.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note the content of this report.
- 2) To recognise the potential for benefits from in-person visits between schools from different countries, however notes that the Climate and Nature Emergencies are being driven by man-made carbon dioxide emissions including from flights.
- 3) To note that whilst the overall impact of a small number of flights abroad constitute a relatively small contribution to climate change, such impacts are cumulative and it is important that the City's target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030 is upheld.
- 4) To note the current work being done online between Edinburgh schools and schools across the world as part of the 1.5MAX initiative where projects by children and young people to cut carbon emissions are shared and developed.
- 5) To therefore request that before any Edinburgh school plans a trip to or from Hong Kong that an evaluation of carrying out this partnership online, is carried out by the school and the results shared with the council.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths

- 1) To note the content of this report.
- 2) To recognise the potential for benefits from in-person visits between schools from different countries, however notes that the Climate and Nature Emergencies are being driven by man-made carbon dioxide emissions including from flights.
- 3) To note that whilst the overall impact of a small number of flights abroad constitute a relatively small contribution to climate change, such impacts are cumulative and it is important that the City's target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030 is upheld.
- 4) To note the current work being done online between Edinburgh schools and schools across the world as part of the 1.5MAX initiative where projects by children and young people to cut carbon emissions are shared and developed.



- 5) To therefore request that before any Edinburgh school plans a trip to or from Hong Kong that an evaluation of carrying out this partnership online, is carried out by the school and the results shared with the council.

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

## **11. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

---

An increase in Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs), through spontaneous arrivals and the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) created unprecedented demand on social work, accommodation, and support services. This is not matched by additionality of resource. This unpredictable demand had left young people of 16 plus years being placed in residential and homeless accommodation.

This approach risked the unintended consequence of displacing Edinburgh's young people to out of area placements, when local accommodation options are at capacity. Service delivery is being reviewed to consider how best, to offset the need for emergency responses leading to high-level and costly packages of residential care. Any strategy needed to embrace the needs of all children and young people as belonging to Edinburgh and having equality and rights at the fore.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note the changing position in demand and the associated pressure on the budget.
- 2) To note the requirement to realign the service to continue to meet the increased need within available resources.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham.

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the changing position in demand and the associated pressure on the budget.
- 2) To note the requirement to realign the service to continue to meet the increased need within available resources.
- 3) To note that most, if not all, asylum-seeking children and young people will have experiences of violence, torture, trauma, and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- 4) To request that the convenor writes to the UK Home Office to increase weekly rates for support or a one-off uplift to help with current budget pressures in this area.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the changing position in demand and the associated pressure on the budget.
  - 2) To note the requirement to realign the service to continue to meet the increased need within available resources.
  - 3) To note that Council agreed, at Full Council on Thursday 2nd November 2023, to agree that the needs of refugees and asylum seekers must be integrated in the Housing Emergency Action Plan and ‘adequate resourcing need to be in place [...] to ensure that we can continue to support refugees and asylum seekers to find a safe home in the city,’ as requested in the motion by Cllr. Parker.
  - 4) To that Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee (HHFW) agreed, on Tuesday 3rd October 2023, to “write to the relevant Scottish Government ministers seeking funding to mitigate the impact of the [UK Government’s “hotel maximilisation policy] changes,” as requested in the motion by Cllr. Parker.
  - 5) To request that the convenor also writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and the Scottish Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees to highlight Edinburgh’s unaccompanied asylum seeking children and request a meeting urgently to discuss the funding pressures and complexities of Home Office funding.
  - 6) To request that an update in Committee’s next Business Bulletin includes:
    - Any update on responses from the Scottish Government on this matter
    - Any update related to supporting refugees, asylum seeking young people, including those with no recourse to public funds, that also goes to HHFW.
    - Updates on the Next steps set out in section 5
- moved by Councillor O’Neill, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendments were accepted as addenda to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths

- 1) To note the changing position in demand and the associated pressure on the budget.
- 2) To note the requirement to realign the service to continue to meet the increased need within available resources.
- 3) To note that most, if not all, asylum-seeking children and young people will have experiences of violence, torture, trauma, and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

- 4) To request that the convenor writes to the UK Home Office to increase weekly rates for support or a one-off uplift to help with current budget pressures in this area.
- 4) To note that Council agreed, at Full Council on Thursday 2nd November 2023, to agree that the needs of refugees and asylum seekers must be integrated in the Housing Emergency Action Plan and ‘adequate resourcing need to be in place [...] to ensure that we can continue to support refugees and asylum seekers to find a safe home in the city,’ as requested in the motion by Councillor Parker.
- 6) To that Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee (HHFW) agreed, on Tuesday 3rd October 2023, to “write to the relevant Scottish Government ministers seeking funding to mitigate the impact of the [UK Government’s “hotel maximilisation policy] changes,” as requested in the motion by Cllr. Parker.
- 7) To request that the convenor also writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and the Scottish Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees to highlight Edinburgh’s unaccompanied asylum seeking children and request a meeting urgently to discuss the funding pressures and complexities of Home Office funding.
- 8) To request that an update in Committee’s next Business Bulletin includes:
  - Any update on responses from the Scottish Government on this matter
  - Any update related to supporting refugees, asylum seeking young people, including those with no recourse to public funds, that also goes to HHFW.
  - Updates on the Next steps set out in section 5.

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

## **12. The Early Years Service**

---

The Scottish Government committed to deliver an increase in funded Early Learning and Childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours for every child aged 3-4 years and Eligible 2 year-olds to address poverty and to enable parents into work and training. The Local Authority successfully planned and implemented this strategy within the agreed budget and continues to deliver a high-quality service. Since 2020, there had been an increase from 35% to 42% of families accessing their funded provision via Partner Provider Nurseries despite a decline in the quality of provision; the increased number of children equates to a significant cost increase from the central budget.

The Scottish Government reviewed its grant funding for Edinburgh ELC from £46.4m in 2021-23 to £41.3m in 2022-23 and then reduced again to £40.4m in 2023-24. The

overall reduction of £6m is therefore a major budget pressure. To continue to deliver a high-quality service, we need to reshape the model of delivery for ELC.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note the range of services and model of delivery within the Early Years Sector.
- 2) To note the analysis of Early Years Parent Survey 2023.
- 3) To note the constraints and opportunities of the current financial pressures.
- 4) To note that the Strategic programme Board is overseeing the revision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) delivery model to ensure that the service is delivered within budget.
- 5) To note a report on the Early Years hourly rate for partners 2024-25 will come to committee in April 2024.
  - moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

### **Amendment 1**

- 1.1) The Education Children and Justice Committee is asked to:
- 1.2) Note the commitment in 6.1 “that further funding will be provided to allow providers to pay £12 per hour” and recognises that:
  - 1.2.1 The funding rate agreed for PVI partners to date is therefore deficient.
  - 1.2.2 Deficient funding can be expected to result in low staff retention and low quality of service provision.
- 1.3) Understands that:
  - 1.3.1 Raising in-house capacity will require recruitment of staff.
  - 1.3.2 Employing staff increases risks of further shortfalls if capacity is not taken up.
  - 1.3.3 Funding PVI partners reduces staffing risk to the Council.
- 1.4) Agrees with the commitment to Best Value as set out in 5.1 and recognises that this can only be delivered if the costs of options are understood and compared.
- 1.5) Committee therefore asks:
  - 1.5.1 Officers report back with an analysis of the Council’s internal funding structure so:
    - a) A direct comparison can be made between the cost of i) in-house provision and ii) funding of PVI settings.
    - b) The Strategic Programme Board has the information it needs to make recommendations on the most appropriate model of service delivery.

- c) A properly informed assessment can be made for the review of PVI hourly rate.

1.5.2 The Strategic Programme Board to report its deliberations to ECJ Committee for scrutiny before recommendations are made.

- 2) To note the analysis of Early Years Parent Survey 2023.
  - 3) To note the constraints and opportunities of the current financial pressures.
  - 4) To note that the Strategic programme Board is overseeing the revision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) delivery model to ensure that the service is delivered within budget.
  - 6) To note a report on the Early Years hourly rate for partners 2024-25 will come to committee in April 2024.
- moved by Councillor Cowdy, seconded by Councillor Jones

## **Amendment 2**

- 1.1) The Education Children and Justice Committee is asked to:
  - 1.2) Agree with the commitment to Best Value as set out in 5.1 and recognises that this can only be delivered if the costs of options are understood and compared.
  - 1.3) Committee therefore asks:
    - 1.3.1 Officers report back with an analysis of the Council's internal funding structure so:
      - a) A direct comparison can be made between the cost of i) in-house provision and ii) funding of PVI settings.
      - b) The Strategic Programme Board has the information it needs to make recommendations on the most appropriate model of service delivery.
      - c) A properly informed assessment can be made for the review of PVI hourly rate.
    - 1.3.2 The Strategic Programme Board to report its deliberations to ECJ Committee for scrutiny before recommendations are made.
  - 2) To note the analysis of Early Years Parent Survey 2023.
  - 3) To note the constraints and opportunities of the current financial pressures.
  - 4) To note that the Strategic programme Board is overseeing the revision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) delivery model to ensure that the service is delivered within budget.
- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion - 7 votes

For Amendment 1 - 2 votes

For Amendment 2 - 2 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Burgess, Glasgow, Graham, Griffiths, Hyslop, Kumar and O'Neill.

For Amendment 1: Councillors Cowdy and Jones.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Davidson and Young.)

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the range of services and model of delivery within the Early Years Sector.
- 2) To note the analysis of Early Years Parent Survey 2023.
- 3) To note the constraints and opportunities of the current financial pressures.
- 4) To note that the Strategic programme Board is overseeing the revision of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) delivery model to ensure that the service is delivered within budget.
- 7) To note a report on the Early Years hourly rate for partners 2024-25 will come to committee in April 2024.

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

## **13. School Placements and Appeals Process**

---

During 2023 resource and procedural issues impacted the effective operation of the school placement appeals procedure, with appeals being heard later in the year than usual. This report provided an update on the immediate actions being taken to strengthen the process.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note changes to the P1 and S1 Appeals process to be implemented for 2024.
- 2) To note that officers continue to work collaboratively to look at how appeals outside of the P1 and S1 process are managed to ensure consistent decision making.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note changes to the P1 and S1 Appeals process to be implemented for 2024.
- 2) To note that officers continue to work collaboratively to look at how appeals outside of the P1 and S1 process are managed to ensure consistent decision making.
- 3) To the Committee's thanks for the tireless work of volunteers on the school placement and appeals panels. Volunteers have worked hard to ensure availability at panels to avoid delays and the Council is grateful for their input and service.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approved the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths.

- 1) To note changes to the P1 and S1 Appeals process to be implemented for 2024.
- 2) To note that officers continue to work collaboratively to look at how appeals outside of the P1 and S1 process are managed to ensure consistent decision making.
- 3) To the Committee's thanks for the tireless work of volunteers on the school placement and appeals panels. Volunteers have worked hard to ensure availability at panels to avoid delays and the Council is grateful for their input and service.

### **Declaration of Interest**

Alexander Ramage made a transparency statement School Placing Appeals as he is an appeal panel member.

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

## **14. Revenue Monitoring 2023-24 Month Seven Report**

---

The report set out the projected month seven revenue monitoring position for Children, Education and Justice Services, based on review of expenditure and income to end of October 2023, and projections for the remainder of the year. The total 2023/24 net budget for Children, Education and Justice Services was £459.2m. This report set out the projected revenue monitoring position for 2023/24, based on analysis of known pressures and mitigating savings identified to date. Children, Education and Justice Services projected a net budget pressure of £4.6m at month seven, this is an improved position from that previously reported.

## **Decision**

To note the estimated net residual budget pressure of £4.6m at month seven.

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

## **15. Literacy**

---

This report covered the scope and findings of the Literacy Thematic Review, undertaken in May and November 2023. Phase 1 focused on Writing, in response to concerns around literacy attainment levels in P4 and S3. Phase 2 focused on the Leadership of Literacy, identified through fieldwork evidence from Phase 1, which highlighted a gap in the strategic direction and overview of the learning, teaching, and assessment of Literacy.

The current Integrated Literacy Strategy was written in 2018. Evidence from both phases of the review had supported the direction and content of a new Integrated Literacy Strategy to be implemented from 2024. This strategy was designed to raise attainment in literacy across our schools and outlines key actions to be taken at local authority, learning community and school levels.

It should be noted that the new Integrated Literacy Strategy linked directly with our Digital Learning Strategy to ensure that developments in Digital practice enhance approaches to teaching, learning and assessment.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified in the findings of the Literacy Thematic review.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4.

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

## **16. Response to the Consultation on the Provisions of the Education Bill**

---

This report provided the City of Edinburgh response by officers to the Consultation on the Provisions of the Education Bill. This response broadly agreed with the recommendations of Professor Muir and Professor Hayward in their respective reports.

## **Decision**

To note the City of Edinburgh Council officers' response to the consultation on the Provisions of the Education Bill.

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



## **17. School session dates 2025-2026 and 2026-2027**

---

A short life working group of head teachers, a parent representative and officers produced draft dates for the two years and shared these with staff, parents/carers, and pupils for comment and feedback. As a result some changes were made, and the proposed dates are included as appendices 1 and 2 for approval.

### **Decision**

To agree to the proposed session dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27.

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

## **18. Maximising Attendance**

---

This report responded to the Addendum by the SNP group at Education, Children, and Families Committee 7 November 2023 Item 7.6 and the committee agreement to provide an update on the outcome of the consultation and proposed new model for managing attendance.

This report provided an overview of the outcome of the consultation and the resulting proposals for maximising attendance in the City of Edinburgh's schools, including refreshed policy and procedures and a proposal for the redesign of the Educational Welfare Service.

### **Decision**

To continue consideration of the Maximising Attendance report at the next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee.

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

## **19. Response to the Enquiry into Additional Support for Learning**

---

This report provided the City of Edinburgh response by officers to the inquiry into Additional Support for Learning by the Education, Children and Young People Committee of the Scottish Government.

### **Decision**

To approve the City of Edinburgh Council officers' response to the enquiry into Additional Support for Learning by the Education, Children and Young People Committee of the Scottish Government.

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

## **20. Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 31 October 2023 – referral from the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee**

---

On 28 November 2023 the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee considered the Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 31 October 2023. The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred the report to the Education Children and Families Committee for scrutiny of the overdue IA actions relevant to its remit.

### **Decision**

To note the outstanding Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions.

(Reference – report referred by the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, submitted.)

## **21. Childrens Services Improvement Plan and Edinburgh Residential Services Improvement Plan Update**

---

Progress has been made in all areas of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan. In some areas progress hasn’t been at the pace expected; this primarily related to ongoing delays in recruitment which is a national challenge. Some areas of progress have moved back to amber to be considered within the wider service review/redesign that has just commenced.

This report set out the improvements in the Residential Services Improvement Plan from the last report that went to the Education, Children and Families Committee in November 2023.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the positive progress made against the Children’s Services Improvement Plan, and the Edinburgh Residential Services Improvement Plan, last reported November 2023.
- 2) To scrutinise those areas where progress is slower than planned and ensure effective mitigations are in place.

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

## **22. Inclusion in City of Edinburgh Schools – Annual Report 2023**

---

In the City of Edinburgh Council schools there are currently 45.9% (n=24,760) children and young people recorded as having an additional support need. Additional support needs are recorded as 10% higher in the secondary sector than the primary sector. The percentage of pupils with additional support needs is relatively high compared to national figures and those of other Local Authorities and work is taking place to fully understand this situation.

Following the National Review of Inclusion in 2022, Edinburgh undertook a Collaborative Learning Review into approaches to Inclusion. This included Senior Education Managers, Education Scotland and colleagues from the Association of

Directors of Education. This review found that the city's vision for inclusion was current and clear and that there was a comparatively high level of resource available. The review made a number of recommendations for improvement that the Inclusion Review Programme is addressing.

The Inclusion Review Programme has 4 current workstreams. Recommendations that arise as part of this Programme of work will be brought before Elected Members for approval as required.

A number of key actions are noted that will be the focus for improvement activities over the next 12-months and beyond that will aim to strength inclusive practice across the learning estate and ensure the needs of our learners with additional support needs continue to be met.

### **Decision**

To note the data for inclusion and the work being carried out to support improvements in inclusion of our children and young people across in our schools and the key actions that will be taken forward over the next 12 months.

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

## **23. Edinburgh Learns For Life – Equity**

---

This report provided an update on the strategic actions of the Edinburgh Learns for Life: Equity Board. It outlined the impact of the Attainment Scotland Fund, including the Pupil Equity Fund and Strategic Equity Fund, on outcomes for children and young people experiencing poverty-related barriers. Our evaluation of Stretch Aims (targets to close the poverty related attainment gap - Appendix 1) indicates that there is progress in the closing of the poverty-related attainment gap. New Stretch Aims have been set for 2023-2026 and these relate to core measures determined by Scottish Government and core plus measures identified by the local authority.

### **Motion**

- 1) To note the content of this report.
  - 2) To note the next steps from Section 5, including:
    - To continue commitment to developing a culture of equity across the authority, through impactful professional learning and all Edinburgh Learns for Life Boards considering work through an equity lens.
    - To further support positive data culture through the procurement of a cloud-based, universal tracking and monitoring system.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note the content of this report.
- 2) To note the next steps from Section 5, including:
  - To continue commitment to developing a culture of equity across the authority, through impactful professional learning and all Edinburgh Learns for Life Boards considering work through an equity lens.
  - To further support positive data culture through the procurement of a cloud-based, universal tracking and monitoring system.
- 3) To note the recurring disparity found in the Q1-Q5 SIMD gap when looking at achievement of literacy, numeracy and all SCQF levels; notably the 41% gap in 2022 between leavers in 'most deprived and least deprived areas' achieving SCQF 6, or one Scottish Higher.
- 4) To understand that this leaver data is an indication of employment prospect and quality of destination; meaning those in the Q1 data zone are less likely to have a 'positive destination'.
- 5) To note that in terms of climate and nature emergency implications, Committee understands we have a duty to promote access to fair work in Edinburgh that aligns with our approach to a just transition to green jobs as a preventative action against unemployment.
- 6) To request that the Children, Education and Justice Services department engage with colleagues in Sustainable Development to align work around 'positive destinations' to the objectives of the Council's climate strategies, and that this should involve engagement with and learning from Capital City Partnership and officers involved in the redrafting of its Service Level Agreement with the Council, following the decision at Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in October 2023 to develop a new workstream / programme within that SLA to focus on green skills.
- 7) To understand the development of a more inclusive labour market that equally benefits people in Q1 through to Q5 and aligns with our Climate Strategy 2030, requests a report in 3 cycles that includes:
  - a) How the Council engages in the Facing up to Poverty in Schools Practice Network
  - b) Explicitly how poverty manifests as barriers to education and leaving education.
  - c) How we ensure young people in 'high deprivation' areas are supported to access Fair Work that provides enough to live on.
  - d) How we ensure a focus on green skill opportunities and apprenticeships when considering leavers' destination.

- moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the content of this report.
- 2) To note the next steps from Section 5, including:
  - To continue commitment to developing a culture of equity across the authority, through impactful professional learning and all Edinburgh Learns for Life Boards considering work through an equity lens.
  - To further support positive data culture through the procurement of a cloud-based, universal tracking and monitoring system.
- 3) To note the recurring disparity found in the Q1-Q5 SIMD gap when looking at achievement of literacy, numeracy and all SCQF levels; notably the 41% gap in 2022 between leavers in 'most deprived and least deprived areas' achieving SCQF 6, or one Scottish Higher.
- 4) To understand that this leaver data is an indication of employment prospect and quality of destination; meaning those in the Q1 data zone are less likely to have a 'positive destination'.
- 5) To note that in terms of climate and nature emergency implications, Committee understands we have a duty to promote access to fair work in Edinburgh that aligns with our approach to a just transition to green jobs as a preventative action against unemployment.
- 6) To request that the Children, Education and Justice Services department engage with colleagues in Sustainable Development to align work around 'positive destinations' to the objectives of the Council's climate strategies, and that this should involve engagement with and learning from Capital City Partnership and officers involved in the redrafting of its Service Level Agreement with the Council, following the decision at Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in October 2023 to develop a new workstream / programme within that SLA to focus on green skills.
- 7) To understand the development of a more inclusive labour market that equally benefits people in Q1 through to Q5 and aligns with our Climate Strategy 2030, requests a report in 3 cycles that includes:
  - a) How the Council engages in the Facing up to Poverty in Schools Practice Network
  - b) Explicitly how poverty manifests as barriers to education and leaving education.

- c) How we ensure young people in 'high deprivation' areas are supported to access Fair Work that provides enough to live on.
- d) How we ensure a focus on green skill opportunities and apprenticeships when considering leavers' destination.

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

## **24. Edinburgh Children's Partnership Plan**

---

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership is the statutory partnership as outlined in the Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which requires councils and NHS Health boards along with other key partner agencies to work together to plan, provide and deliver services for children and their families.

Edinburgh Children's Partnership reports into the Edinburgh Partnership Board and supports the Edinburgh Partnership Board to deliver against the wider Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-2028. Which aims to ensure that those living in Edinburgh have enough money to live on; access to work, learning and training opportunities; and a good place to live.

### **Decision**

- 1) To the contents of the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Plan (Appendix 1).
- 2) To note that this has been approved by NHS colleagues.

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

## **25. Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Annual Report 2022-23**

---

This report accompanied the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2022-23 (see Appendix 1), which summarised the work of this multi-agency strategic partnership within the past year. It highlighted the core business of the Child Protection Committee as well as areas of strength and good practice, alongside identified priority areas for the coming year.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the content of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021-22.
- 2) To note the period of transition that has taken place in relation to Committee Membership over recent months.
- 3) To note the positive contribution made by services across the City in keeping children safe.

## **26. Motion by Councillor Griffiths – Congratulatory Motion, Oaklands School Awarded Scottish School of the Year 2023 at the Scottish Sport Awards**

---

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

“Committee:

1. Congratulates Oaklands School on being awarded Scottish School of the Year 2023 at this year’s Scottish Sports Awards;
  2. Notes pupils at Oaklands have complex medical and care needs as well as additional educational support needs and praises the school’s attitude towards sport ensuring all pupils can access sport no matter their disability;
  3. Understands Oaklands School’s PE department work in partnership with various organisations such as Active Schools, local sporting providers, Blaze Basketball and Scottish Rugby to ensure a wide range of activities can be offered to the pupils and offers all pupils access to rebound therapy which has proven to work successfully for the pupils;
  4. Acknowledges the school and pupils have seen a huge impact in both the mental and physical health of the pupils partaking in the variety of sporting activities offered to them;
  5. Commends the school’s passion for sport and physical activity with the school offering pupils a ‘Sports Week’ instead of a sports day, allowing everyone the opportunity to participate at their own pace and level; 6. Applauds Oakland’s school for this fantastic achievement and wishes them all the best going forward with their great work.”
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham.

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Griffiths.