

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 16 April 2024

Present:

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Burgess, Cowdy, Davidson, Glasgow, Graham, Jones (items 1.1 to 7.5), Kumar, O'Neill, Young, Fullerton (Items 1.1 to 5.2), Macinnes (item 6.1 onwards)

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell, Dr Ruhy Parris (item 7.2 onwards) (non-voting)

Secondary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Alexander Ramage, Louise Collingwood (non-voting)

1. Deputations

a) The Junction

(in relation to item 7.12 – Contracts and Commissioning Update)

The deputation noted that future funding under the Mental Health and Wellbeing contract was anticipated by organisations. It was intending that these contracts would end on 10 October 2024. Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis had a fundamental impact on third sector organisations and families. Increased anxiety and depression in young people was noted. Concern was noted about a lack of organisations to refer young people on to and that services were at risk. The wide range of organisations that receive funding was highlighted. The deputation indicated that the contact framework was not fit for purpose.

b) Tailor Ed Foundation

(in relation to item 7.12 – Contracts and Commissioning Update)

The deputation noted that in 2021 after a robust exercise funds were allocated to establish a Mental Health project for neurodiverse children and young people. The deputation felt that relationships between the third sector and the council were strained. The deputation requested that a further years funding be made available through the Mental Health and Wellbeing contract. Concerns were raised about a lack of partnership work and a lack of transparency regarding decision making. The deputation was concerned that decisions had been reached without ample information about the impact of projects benefiting from funding. The deputation was

further concerned about the impact on families with neurodiverse children, if services were not maintained.

c) Multi-Cultural Family Base

(in relation to item 7.12 – Contracts and Commissioning Update)

The deputation noted that the Mosaic project is currently funded from a Mental Health and Wellbeing and would no longer be funded under current plans. The project was for young people from minority-ethnic backgrounds that experience mental health challenges. The support is generally through group work. Young people experience cultural barriers to accessing other services.

d) Edinburgh EIS

(in relation to item 7.15 – Make Public Sexual Harassment Illegal Campaign)

The deputation noted that the report was welcome but highlighted that in order to be fully implemented there needed to be further resources deployed for this. The report highlighted a massive issue and the deputation noted there is already a strain on school staff. The deputation noted staff had experienced misogynistic behaviours, attitudes, and language. There were good frameworks in place for reporting incidents and the deputation noted that these should be used when staff experiences any threatening behaviours. The deputation noted that this movement needs to be broader than just schools and questioned if a border campaign in communities were possible. It was noted that this report was a good starting point.

e) Scottish Private Nurseries Association

(in relation to item 7.3 – Early Years Cross Boundary Places)

The deputation noted that some nurseries in Edinburgh have a number of children accommodated that live in local authorities other than the City of Edinburgh. The deputation noted the concerns regarding viability of specific early years settings should there be changes to the cross boundary arrangements. The deputation noted that other local authorities have partnership arrangements in place to assist with cross boundary accommodation of children in early years settings.

f) Scottish Private Nurseries Association

(in relation to item 7.4 – Hourly Rate for Funded Early Learning and Childcare)

The deputation noted that the sustainable rate is not fair. The deputation noted that costs to private nurseries are significant, for example, with utilities. It was noted that Scottish Government funding has been provided to ensure an uplift in the hourly rate

and the deputation was concerned that the City of Edinburgh Council was withholding funds from Early Learning and Childcare providers.

2. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 23 January 2023 as a correct record.

3. Work Programme

The Committee's work programme updated to 16 April 2024 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 16 April 2024, submitted)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The rolling actions log updated to April 2024 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - **Action 3** - Motion by Councillor Davidson – Internet Safety
 - **Action 12** - Business Bulletin - Literacy Thematic Review
 - **Action 13** – Business Bulletin - Internet Safety
 - **Action 16** - Family Swim Sessions in Braidburn Pool
 - **Action 18(2)** - Community Access to Secondary Schools – Transfer of management of non-sport lets to Edinburgh Leisure
 - **Action 20** – Free Food Provision in Schools - Response to motion by Councillor Davidson
 - **Action 21** - Emergency Motion by Councillor
 - **Action 22** - By Councillor Faccenda - Edinburgh School Uniform Bank
 - **Action 23** - Business Bulletin
 - **Action 24** - Outdoor Learning – Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres
 - **Action 28** - Inclusion Review
 - **Action 31(2)(3)(4)** - Response to motion by Councillor McKenzie – Early Years
- 2) To agree to keep the following action open: **Action 29** - Response to motion by Councillor Mowat – School Admissions and Placing Appeals.

- 3) **Action 36 (2)** - To ensure the Children's Partnership Papers are circulated as soon as possible.
- 4) **Action 2** – School Bicycle Storage, Committee Services to follow up with officers regarding outstanding briefing paper and report.
- 5) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions
(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, 16 April 2024, submitted)

5. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for 16 April 2024 was presented.

Decision:

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) Officers to circulate link to recent Scottish Government / Care Inspectorate report regarding exploitation.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 16 April 2024, submitted)

6. Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update

Improving outcomes for all learners is our shared goal. All staff need to be relentlessly focused on ensuring learners make the progress they need to achieve and attain. Since August 2023, the Quality Improvement Service has implemented a refreshed model of support and challenge to maintain this relentless focus on raising standards in schools. The Edinburgh Learns Improving Quality in Learning Framework has been updated (March 2024) to clearly define this new model and approaches to improvement.

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) To note committee is concerned that recently two schools, one primary and one secondary, have received weak evaluations from Education Scotland Inspectors. In the case of East Craigs Primary School the evaluation was weak in all four quality indicators. For Forrester High, the evaluation was weak for attainment only.
- 2) To note that these evaluations are amongst the lowest, not just in Edinburgh, but in Scotland as a whole and that there are very few schools in the country in this category.

- 3) To requests a report in one cycle on the progress which has been made with identified Priority Schools to include –
 - How are the Priority Schools identified?
 - What are the current Priority Schools?
 - What interventions have been implemented to improve outcomes?
 - How have these interventions been assessed?
 - How successful have these interventions been?

- moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Cowdy

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, the Amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the 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 committee is concerned that recently two schools, one primary and one secondary, have received weak evaluations from Education Scotland Inspectors. In the case of East Craigs Primary School the evaluation was weak in all four quality indicators. For Forrester High, the evaluation was weak for attainment only.
- 4) To note that these evaluations are amongst the lowest, not just in Edinburgh, but in Scotland as a whole and that there are very few schools in the country in this category.
- 5) To requests a report in one cycle on the progress which has been made with identified Priority Schools to include –
 - How are the Priority Schools identified?
 - What are the current Priority Schools?
 - What interventions have been implemented to improve outcomes?
 - How have these interventions been assessed?
 - How successful have these interventions been?
- 6) To agree to bring a future private report to committee regarding the CE&J Directorate Risk Register covering points raised in the Conservative addendum.

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

7. Maximising Models of School 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

- 1) To note the background section of this report containing an update on the outcome of the consultation on "staffing models for attendance", as requested in the SNP Addendum at Children and Families Committee, 7 November 2023.
- 2) To agree the outcome of the consultation and the proposed revised model for maximising attendance in our schools, including refreshed policy and procedures on managing attendance and a re-design of the Education Welfare Service.

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

8. Early Years Cross Boundary Places

At the meeting of full council on 21 March 2024, elected members requested a report on the decision of the Strategic Programme Board to bring all cross boundary funded early learning and childcare places in house and remove the need to pay external providers to deliver this provision. Appendix 1 provides details of what was agreed at the full council meeting. Section 47 (1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, provides that each education authority must ensure that the statutory funded early learning and childcare entitlement is made available for each eligible young child belonging to (i.e. residing in) it's area.

Motion

- 1) To note the decision of the Strategic Programme Board to deliver best value to Edinburgh's residents and save £1.2 million by limiting early learning and childcare cross boundary places to local authority settings.
- 2) To note the Strategic Programme Board has delegated responsibility to meet the financial strategy and Medium Term Financial-Plan to address the council budgetary challenges.
- 3) To the request for an additional audit has been submitted to the Head of Internal Audit, with a request for approval as an addition to the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan being presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 7 May.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 1

- 1) Committee agrees this is clearly a policy decision, not an operational decision and therefore any proposed changes are for Councillors to decide through committee decision.
- 2) To note assurances to families that existing funded children who are not Edinburgh residents will continue to be funded but that funded sibling placements for cross boundary places will cause concern for parents and families as they only cover one year.
- 3) To agree that further information is needed to understand the full impact of this change.
- 4) To that the current plan to phase out funding for cross boundary places in private settings from August 2024 is very short notice for families to consider alternative plans.
- 5) To Use every opportunity to actively engage in discussion with COSLA, Scottish Government, and other local authorities to reconsider best recharge mechanisms for funded nursery placements. Agree officers will aim to secure agreement of funding following the child to allow for easier allocation of funded cross-boundary placements at no financial detriment to local authorities.
- 6) To agree that officers to bring an update report in one cycle on the above points with a completed equalities impact assessment back to ECF committee for final decision. Agrees officers will immediately communicate that any changes will not proceed until Committee has formally agreed.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the decision of the Strategic Programme Board to limit early learning and childcare cross boundary places to local authority settings.
- 2) To note the full text from the Operating Guidance mentioned in point 4.18 starts with "For families this means that they will be able to access high quality funded ELC with the **provider of their choice** – in the public, private, or third sector.
- 3) To recognise that Scot Gov's desire for a no charging policy set out in point 4.14 is a recommendation and not enforced policy.
- 4) To note that the only cross boundary approach CEC has explored is the same as the West Partnership Agreement.
- 5) To agree with the commitment to the principle of Best Value as set out in point 4.1 and recognises that this can only be delivered if the costs of EY provision

in Local Authority settings can be fully understood and compared with other settings.

- 6) To note instructs Officers to report back with:
- i) An analysis of the Council's internal funding structure so a direct comparison can be made between the cost of a) funding in-house provision and b) funding of PVI settings, to ensure Best Value to Edinburgh's residents can be delivered.
 - ii) Additional options for cross-boundary approaches other than the one explored along with a summary of discussions had with the 9 Local Authorities
- moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Cowdy

Amendment 3

- 1) To agree that committee receive a report in one cycle:
- i) Confirming the legal advice that has been received by officers on this matter.
 - ii) Confirming the geographical spread of current nursery spaces in City of Edinburgh Council facilities.
 - iii) Outlining the intention of neighbouring authorities to either refuse spaces or charge the City of Edinburgh Council for children currently accommodated in nurseries in their area and what the potential costs could be.
 - iv) Officers to have discussions with any providers severely impacted by this change to support continuity of service.
 - v) To have advice from Committee Services in relation to this matter when the further report is considered.

- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Davidson

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, Amendments 1, 2 and 3 were adjusted and accepted as addenda to the motion.

Decision

To agree the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the decision of the Strategic Programme Board to limit early learning and childcare cross boundary places to local authority settings.
- 2) To note the Strategic Programme Board has delegated responsibility to meet the financial strategy and Medium Term Financial-Plan to address the council budgetary challenges.
- 3) To the request for an additional audit has been submitted to the Head of Internal Audit, with a request for approval as an addition to the 2024/25

Internal Audit Plan being presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 7 May.

- 4) To note assurances to families that existing funded children who are not Edinburgh residents will continue to be funded but that funded sibling placements for cross boundary places will cause concern for parents and families as they only cover one year.
- 5) To agree that further information is needed to understand the full impact of this change.
- 6) To note that the current plan to phase out funding for cross boundary places in private settings from August 2024 is very short notice for families to consider alternative plans.
- 7) To Use every opportunity to actively engage in discussion with COSLA, Scottish Government, and other local authorities to reconsider best recharge mechanisms for funded nursery placements. Agree officers will aim to secure agreement of funding following the child to allow for easier allocation of funded cross-boundary placements at no financial detriment to local authorities.
- 8) To agree that officers to bring an update report in one cycle on the above points with a completed equalities impact assessment back to ECF committee for final decision. Agrees officers will immediately communicate that any changes will not proceed until Committee has formally agreed.
- 9) To note the full text from the Operating Guidance mentioned in point 4.18 starts with “For families this means that they will be able to access high quality funded ELC with the **provider of their choice** – in the public, private, or third sector.
- 10) To recognise that Scot Gov’s desire for a no charging policy set out in point 4.14 is a recommendation and not enforced policy.
- 11) To note that the only cross boundary approach CEC has explored is the same as the West Partnership Agreement.
- 12) To agree with the commitment to the principle of Best Value as set out in point 4.1 and recognises that this can only be delivered if the costs of EY provision in Local Authority settings can be fully understood and compared with other settings.
- 13) To instruct Officers to report back with:
 - i) An analysis of the Council’s internal funding structure so a direct comparison can be made between the cost of a) funding in-house provision and b) funding of PVI settings, to ensure Best Value to Edinburgh’s residents can be delivered.

ii) Additional options for cross-boundary approaches other than the one explored along with a summary of discussions had with the 9 Local Authorities.

- 14) To agree that committee receive a report in one cycle:
- i) Confirming the legal advice that has been received by officers on this matter.
 - ii) Confirming the geographical spread of current nursery spaces in City of Edinburgh Council facilities.
 - iii) Outlining the intention of neighbouring authorities to either refuse spaces or charge the City of Edinburgh Council for children currently accommodated in nurseries in their area and what the potential costs could be.
 - iv) Officers to have discussions with any providers severely impacted by this change to support continuity of service.
 - v) To have advice from Committee Services in relation to this matter when the further report is considered.

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

9. Early Years Partner Provider – Hourly Rate for Funded Early Learning and Childcare

Parents in Edinburgh are currently able to access funded early learning and childcare through a variety of providers.

- 104 local authority settings
- 7 local authority forest kindergartens
- 104 private, voluntary and independent sector settings
- 4 childminders

Under Funding Follows the Child, local authorities are required to set an hourly rate that is paid to funded providers in the private and voluntary sectors, including childminders, to deliver the funded entitlement. This rate should be sustainable and reflect national policy priorities, including enabling payment of the real Living Wage to all childcare workers delivering the funded entitlement.

In April 2023, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed there would be no increase in the funded rate paid to providers and therefore the rate remained as follows.

- £3.10 per meal

- + £6.03 per hour for children aged 3-5 years old, which equates to £6.55 per hour.

- + £6.48 per hour for children aged 2 years old, which equates to £7.00 per hour.

Motion

- 1) To note the information within this report.
- 2) To agree an hourly rate increase of either 4.8% to providers with a contract.
- 3) If the increase is set at 7.6%, to delegate to the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services the need to find additional savings of £700,000 to meet the funding gap to deliver funded early learning and childcare.

Amendment

- 1) To note that the COSLA recommendation of a fixed percentage uplift of 7.6% on hourly rates for childcare providers.
 - 2) To note the funding provided by the Scottish Government would provide for a 4.8% uplift and therefore does not fully fund the recommended 7.6% leaving a shortfall of £700,000.
 - 3) To note that options on how to meet the £700k shortfall should be reviewed and decided at Committee.
 - 4) To agree to approve at a minimum the 4.8% uplift and a preference to approve the 7.6% recommendation but that the latter is dependent on identifying the funding options and any impact on other Education, Children & Families services.
 - 5) To agree to delegate to the Director to identify options for meeting the £700K shortfall and bring these back to the June meeting of the Education Committee for determination.
 - 6) To agree to refer the June committee decision to Finance & Resources for their information due to the substantial amount involved and potential impact on any budget decisions made in February.
- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Davidson

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, the Amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths

- 1) To note the information within this report.
- 2) To agree an hourly rate increase of either 4.8% to providers with a contract.

- 3) To note If the increase is set at 7.6%, to delegate to the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services the need to find additional savings of £700,000 to meet the funding gap to deliver funded early learning and childcare.
- 4) To note that the COSLA recommendation of a fixed percentage uplift of 7.6% on hourly rates for childcare providers.
- 5) To note the funding provided by the Scottish Government would provide for a 4.8% uplift and therefore does not fully fund the recommended 7.6% leaving a shortfall of £700,000.
- 6) To note that options on how to meet the £700k shortfall should be reviewed and decided at Committee.
- 7) To agree to approve at a minimum the 4.8% uplift and a preference to approve the 7.6% recommendation but that the latter is dependent on identifying the funding options and any impact on other Education, Children & Families services.
- 8) To agree to delegate to the Director to identify options for meeting the £700K shortfall and bring these back to the June meeting of the Education Committee for determination.
- 9) To agree to refer the June committee decision to Finance & Resources for their information due to the substantial amount involved and potential impact on any budget decisions made in February.

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

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Fullarton made a declaration of interest as she is a trustee of an early years organisation.

10. Learning Estate Update : 2023 based School Roll Projections

This report presented the latest School Roll projections and identifies actions that require to be taken or are in progress for individual schools.

Motion

- 1) To note latest school roll projections attached as Appendices 1(a) and 1(b).
 - 2) To note the actions proposed for individual schools and those already underway in Appendix 1(c).
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment

- 1) To note the rising roll predictions for Queensferry High School as detailed in appendix 1(b) and that this will exceed capacity from 2027.

- 2) To note the actions noted in appendix 1(c) for Queensferry High School include works on an extension.
 - 3) To note that separate to the extension works, discussions are taking place with landowners on potential alternative sites for a Kirkliston High School and that the outcome of the Scottish Government review of the City Plan has given greater certainty on greenbelt protection.
 - 4) To note that the outcome of landowner negotiations is due to be reported to the Education Children and Families Committee in June and that this should be reflected in any updated roll projections report.
- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Davidson.

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, the Amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note latest school roll projections attached as Appendices 1(a) and 1(b).
- 2) To note the actions proposed for individual schools and those already underway in Appendix 1(c).
- 3) To note the rising roll predictions for Queensferry High School as detailed in appendix 1(b) and that this will exceed capacity from 2027.
- 4) To note the actions noted in appendix 1(c) for Queensferry High School include works on an extension.
- 5) To note that separate to the extension works, discussions are taking place with landowners on potential alternative sites for a Kirkliston High School and that the outcome of the Scottish Government review of the City Plan has given greater certainty on greenbelt protection.
- 6) To note that the outcome of landowner negotiations is due to be reported to the Education Children and Families Committee in June and that this should be reflected in any updated roll projections report.

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

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Young made a transparency statement as she is a parent to a child who would be impacted by catchment area changes in the Queensferry area.

11. Maybury Community Hub and Maybury Primary School

This report proposed that the new building under construction in the Maybury area of the city, which would accommodate a range of community services and facilities

including a primary school and health centre, be named 'Maybury Community Hub'. This would be consistent with the Council's Corporate Property Strategy and, it is hoped, encourage greater community use and ownership. The new building will open in October 2024.

Motion

- 1) To approve the new building accommodating Maybury Primary School and other community facilities and services in the Maybury area of the city be named 'Maybury Community Hub'.
- 2) To note the update on the opening of the new Primary School.

Amendment 1

- 1) To note that the new school building will not be ready for use until 2024 and acknowledges that the delay is going to cause serious disruption for pupils and families in the new Maybury Catchment due to start in August this year.
 - 2) To agree that committee should receive regular updates on the opening of the new school, highlighting any challenges and issues via the Business Bulletin till end of the year.
 - 3) that committee should receive regular updates on the opening of the new school, highlighting any challenges and issues via the Business Bulletin till end of the year.
- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve that the new building accommodating Maybury Primary School and other community facilities and services in the Maybury area of the city be named 'Maybury Primary School and Community Hub'.
- moved by Councillor Young, Seconded by Councillor Davidson

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to Amendment 1.

Voting:

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted) – 4 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted) – 6 votes

For the motion (as adjusted) – Councillors Griffiths, Graham, Burgess, O'Neill.
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted) – Councillors Kumar, Macinnes, Glasgow, Cowdy, Young, Davidson.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Kumar:

- 1) To approve that the new building accommodating Maybury Primary School and other community facilities and services in the Maybury area of the city be named 'Maybury Primary School and Community Hub'
- 2) To note the update on the opening of the new Primary School.
- 3) To note that the new school building will not be ready for use until 2024 and acknowledges that the delay is going to cause serious disruption for pupils and families in the new Maybury Catchment due to start in August this year.
- 2) To agree that committee should receive regular updates on the opening of the new school, highlighting any challenges and issues via the Business Bulletin till end of the year.
- 3) that committee should receive regular updates on the opening of the new school, highlighting any challenges and issues via the Business Bulletin till end of the year.

(Reference - report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

12. Teams Around the Learning Communities

This report provided an update on the progress of developing Teams Around the Learning Communities which included the proof-of-concept case studies in the Liberton and Craigmyle.

Motion

To continue the report to the next committee meeting.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor MacInnes

Voting

Voting was as follows:

To continue the report to the next meeting of the committee - 8 votes

To not continuing the report to the next meeting of the committee - 2 votes

(For the continuation of the report to the next meeting of the committee: Councillors: Kumar, McInnes, O'Neill, Burgess, Glasgow, Cowdy, Davidson, Young.

Against continuation of the report to the next meeting of the committee: Griffiths, and Graham)

Decision

To agree the motion by Councillor Kumar.

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

13. Single Parents Day

This report responded to motion at Full Council 4 May 2023 by Councillor Martha Mattos Coelho on Single Parents Day: By Councillor Mattos Coelho - Single Parents Day “Council: Notes that:

- 39% of children in single parent households are living in poverty – amounting to 90,000 children in Scotland.
- 40% of those are in households where the single parent is working. 92% of single parent families are headed by women.
- In Edinburgh, one in four (27%) families is headed by a single parent. City of Edinburgh Council
- Single parents are one of the hardest hit groups by the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis
- Most single parents report feeling isolated and without significant support, and isolation contributes to low self-esteem, poor confidence, anxiety and depression. - Lone parents are one of the six priority family types identified by the Scottish government as being at high risk of child poverty.
- Notes that there is a clear gender inequality, and that Single Parents should be specifically acknowledged, and their strength celebrated. Further notes that since 1984 the United States has been making a “Single Parents Day” to help raise awareness to their existence and struggles. Therefore, requests that Lord Provost takes necessary actions to make the 21 March each year “Single Parents Day” and work with officers to mark this in an appropriate way.”

Decision

To note the work underway to support the motion at Full Council 4 May 2023 by Councillor Martha Mattos Coelho on Single Parents Day (please refer to Executive Summary) which requested a report to Education, Children and Families Committee meeting closest to 21 March 2024.

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

14. Community Access to Schools – Transfer of Management of Non-Sports Lets to Edinburgh Leisure

On 5 September 2023, Education Children and Families considered a report and agreed to a six-month pilot to transfer the management of non-sports lets to Edinburgh Leisure with 9 pilot schools.

This report provided a mid-point update in the planned first six months of the pilot. It should be noted that the period from January to June is generally quieter than August to December, and that the first 3 months of the calendar year include the Christmas and February breaks.

This report asked Committee to agree to receiving a further report in June 2024, so that a full transfer to Edinburgh Leisure can be agreed ready for implementation in August 2024.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing work to progress transfer of the management of non-sports lets to Edinburgh Leisure.
- 2) To the level of access by community groups in the first 3 months of the pilot with 9 high schools.
- 3) To agree to receiving a further report in June 2024, to consider the level of access and the further rollout of management of non-sport lets by Edinburgh Leisure.

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

15. Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan

Education Scotland HMle (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) is undertaking Community Learning and Development (CLD) Progress Visits to all 32 local authorities throughout the current academic year 2023-2024.

During Progress Visits, HM Inspectors evaluate and report on, the quality of CLD provision within local authorities, in line with The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

The City of Edinburgh Council was notified on 9 January 2024 that its Progress Visit would begin on Monday 5 February through to Wednesday 7 February 2024.

The Draft Report of the Progress Visit was received on Monday 18 March 2024 and following agreement with officers was published on the Education Scotland website on Tuesday 2 April 2024.

Motion

To continue the report to the next committee meeting.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Decision

To agree the motion by Councillor Kumar.

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

16. Internal Audit and Overdue Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 29 January 2024 – referral from the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee has referred the relevant items in appendix 2 Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 29 January 2024 to the Education Children and Families Committee with the following recommendations.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the referral report.

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

17. Commissioning and Contract Management Update

This report provided an overview of the current commissioning and contract management activity in the Children, Education and Justice Services Directorate, including the actions taken to streamline the monitoring of the spend and forecast to support budget process and service planning.

Motion

To continue the report to the next committee meeting.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

Decision

To agree the following adjusted motion by Councillor Macinnes:

- 1) To continue the report to the next committee meeting
- 2) To request officers to bring a further report at the next committee regarding the Mental Health and Wellbeing contract highlighted by the deputations above.

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

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Kumar made a declaration of interest as she had undertaken foster care for an organisation that hold a contract with the City of Edinburgh Council.

18. 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.

Motion

- 1) To note the positive progress made against the Children's Services Improvement Plan, and the Edinburgh Residential Services Improvement Plan, last reported January 2024.
 - 2) To scrutinise those areas where progress is slower than planned and ensure effective mitigations are in place
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, Seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment

- 1) To note the positive progress made against the Children's Services Improvement Plan, and the Edinburgh Residential Services Improvement Plan, last reported January 2024.
- 2) To scrutinise those areas where progress is slower than planned and ensure effective mitigations are in place.
- 3) Committee instructs Officers to report back to the next meeting with more detail of plans being instigated to address areas requiring development and additional resources to support Southouse and Oxfords House.

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, the Amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the positive progress made against the Children's Services Improvement Plan, and the Edinburgh Residential Services Improvement Plan, last reported January 2024.
- 2) To scrutinise those areas where progress is slower than planned and ensure effective mitigations are in place.
- 3) Committee instructs Officers to report back to the next meeting with more detail of plans being instigated to address areas requiring development and additional resources to support Southouse and Oxfords House.

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

19. Chief Social Worker Report

The reason for this report is to present Elected Members with the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for year 2022/23. The report is to inform Members of the role and responsibilities exercised by the Chief Social Work Officer; to provide information on the delivery of statutory social work services and decision making in the period; and to give a progress report on key areas of social work provision.

Decision

- 1) Note the Chief Social Work Officer's (CSWO) Annual Report for 2022/23 attached at Appendix 1.
- 2) Note that the report has been to the Policy and Sustainability Committee 12 March 2024, and will also go for noting to the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board on 22 April 2024
- 3) Officers to set up a workshop to consider this report in more detail with members.

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

20. 'Make Public Sexual Harassment Illegal' Campaign

This report summarised the work of the City of Edinburgh Council in preventing and responding to public sexual harassment through a range of workstreams in making public spaces in Edinburgh safer for women and girls, raising awareness around public sexual harassment, and supporting pupils, teachers and parents to address public sexual harassment both in, and through, education.

Motion

- 1) Note the work currently undertaken to raise awareness of, prevent and respond to, public sexual harassment in Edinburgh.
- 2) Note how Education is working to support pupils, teachers and parents to embed gender equality across schools in Edinburgh and to address sexual harassment of any form.
- 3) Formally adopt the non-legal definition of misogyny provided by Baroness Kennedy KC in her report by the Criminal Justice and Misogyny Working Group, as quoted in section 4.3
- 4) Agree next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.
 - moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham.

Amendment

- 1) Note the work currently undertaken to raise awareness of, prevent and respond to, public sexual harassment in Edinburgh.

- 2) Note how Education is working to support pupils, teachers and parents to embed gender equality across schools in Edinburgh and to address sexual harassment of any form.
 - 3) Formally adopt the non-legal definition of misogyny provided by Baroness Kennedy KC in her report by the Criminal Justice and Misogyny Working Group, as quoted in section 4.3
 - 4) Agree next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report and requests a report back to committee in six months time on the progress against actions relevant to children, young people and families
- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, the Amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) Note the work currently undertaken to raise awareness of, prevent and respond to, public sexual harassment in Edinburgh.
- 2) Note how Education is working to support pupils, teachers and parents to embed gender equality across schools in Edinburgh and to address sexual harassment of any form.
- 3) Formally adopt the non-legal definition of misogyny provided by Baroness Kennedy KC in her report by the Criminal Justice and Misogyny Working Group, as quoted in section 4.3
- 4) Agree next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report and requests a report back to committee in six months time on the progress against actions relevant to children, young people and families

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

21. Congratulatory Motion by Councillor Griffiths – Canal View Primary Becomes First Edinburgh School to Receive Ready School Accreditation

Motion

- 1) Congratulates Canal View Primary in Wester Hailes in becoming the first Edinburgh school to be given the Reading School accreditation by Scottish Book Trust;
- 2) Understands this prestigious programme from Scotland's national reading charity helps schools to build reading cultures for their learners and communities;

- 3) Acknowledges Canal View Primary is the 501st school in Scotland to have been accredited through the programme, and having achieved the first level, the school is now working towards progressing to silver status;
 - 4) Wishes Canal View Primary all the best working towards achieving silver status;
 - 5) Thanks all staff and pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, Seconded by Councillor Graham.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Griffiths.

22. Motion by Councillor Kumar – Pipe Band Drumming

Motion

- 1) Notes that in January 2023, The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) offered City of Edinburgh Council sum of up to £120,000 over a period of three years to help towards the costs of drumming and piping tuition.
- 2) Notes that this funding was previously based on a council advertisement to recruit a full-time piping tutor in December 2022.
- 3) Regrets that this generous offer has not been taken forward and acknowledges that there has been little to no communication between officers and SSPDT to progress this.
- 4) Agrees that the Council can benefit from this valuable grant and that piping and drumming would benefit pupils especially in areas of high socio-economic deprivation where uptake is low.
- 5) Notes that despite delays in correspondence, SSPDT is willing to engage with Council to extend this offer until end of April.
- 6) Agrees for council officers to engage with SSPDT as a matter of urgency to request that the deadline is extended to end of June (or another date as negotiated) to allow officers time to explore feasibility of uptake and report to committee.
- 7) Requests a report at the next ECF Committee for consideration and decision by elected members.

Amendment

- 1) There has been no communication between the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) and Council officers since early 2023.
- 2) No formal offer of £120,000 was made by SSPDT and initial conversations discussed a potential offer of £44,550 per year for two years. However, there was no formal written offer put to City of Edinburgh Council at that time.

- 3) Music tuition is of great benefit to our young people, and it is important that pupils have fair and equal access to tuition. The cost of a full set of bagpipes is £400-500 and must be taken into consideration before any agreement is reached to ensure no young person is left at a disadvantage due to any additional costs.

Requests that:

- 4) Council officers and SSPDT meet at the earliest possible opportunity to negotiate and reach an agreement on any formal offer.
- 5) A report comes to Education, Children and Families Committee in 1 cycle detailing:
 - a. The full cost of bagpipe and drumming tuition and how those costs are being met
 - b. How much the City of Edinburgh Council would have to provide to cover should there be any shortfall in funding
 - c. How long this agreement would be in place with SSPDT
 - d. If this would potentially impact the provision any other form of music tuition
 - e. The feasibility of the uptake pupils interested in bagpipe and drumming tuition

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 Kumar.

- 1) Notes that in January 2023, The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) offered City of Edinburgh Council sum of up to £120,000 over a period of three years to help towards the costs of drumming and piping tuition.
- 2) Notes that this funding was previously based on a council advertisement to recruit a full-time piping tutor in December 2022.
- 3) Regrets that this generous offer has not been taken forward and acknowledges that there has been little to no communication between officers and SSPDT to progress this.
- 4) Agrees that the Council can benefit from this valuable grant and that piping and drumming would benefit pupils especially in areas of high socio-economic deprivation where uptake is low.
- 5) Notes that despite delays in correspondence, SSPDT is willing to engage with Council to extend this offer until end of April.

- 6) Agrees for council officers to engage with SSPDT as a matter of urgency to request that the deadline is extended to end of June (or another date as negotiated) to allow officers time to explore feasibility of uptake and report to committee.
- 7) Requests a report at the next ECF Committee for consideration and decision by elected members.
- 8) To note there has been no communication between the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) and Council officers since early 2023.
- 9) No formal offer of £120,000 was made by SSPDT and initial conversations discussed a potential offer of £44,550 per year for two years. However, there was no formal written offer put to City of Edinburgh Council at that time.
- 10) To note music tuition is of great benefit to our young people, and it is important that pupils have fair and equal access to tuition. The cost of a full set of bagpipes is £400-500 and must be taken into consideration before any agreement is reached to ensure no young person is left at a disadvantage due to any additional costs.

Requests that:

- 11) Council officers and SSPDT meet at the earliest possible opportunity to negotiate and reach an agreement on any formal offer.
- 12) A report comes to Education, Children and Families Committee in 1 cycle detailing:
 - a. The full cost of bagpipe and drumming tuition and how those costs are being met
 - b. How much the City of Edinburgh Council would have to provide to cover should there be any shortfall in funding
 - c. How long this agreement would be in place with SSPDT
 - d. If this would potentially impact the provision any other form of music tuition
 - e. The feasibility of the uptake pupils interested in bagpipe and drumming tuition

23. Motion by Councillor Young – Food Waste in Schools

Motion

To continue consideration of this motion to the next committee meeting.

- moved by Councillor Young, Seconded by Councillor Davidson

Decision

To continue consideration of this motion to the next committee meeting.

24. Motion by Councillor Davidson – Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Schools

Motion

Committee notes:

- 1) The recent research conducted in February 2024 by Hope Not Hate
- 2) That this research stated that one in five teachers are seeing a negative impact on pupil wellbeing arising from issues related to the conflict in Israel-Palestine, including a significant increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents.
- 3) That Edinburgh Council has a duty of care to pupils and to support teachers in dealing with such incidents.

Committee therefore requests:

- a) that education officers contact all primary and secondary headteachers in our school estate to determine:
 - The frequency of observed/reported incidents
 - how Edinburgh's schools are managing discussions around the conflict
 - Whether any additional support or resources are required
 - b) That an update (report or business bulletin) be provided to the June meeting of the Education, Children & Families Committee.
- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young.

Decision

To agree the motion by Councillor Davidson.