

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 8 October 2019

Present:

Councillors Perry (Convener), Dickie (Vice-Convener), Bird, Burgess, Jim Campbell (substituting for Councillor Rust), Corbett (substituting for Councillor Mary Campbell), Griffiths, Key, Laidaw, Webber and Young.

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge and Monsignor Anthony Duffy.

Parent Representative

Alexander Ramage

1. Promoting Equality

(a) Deputation – Intercultural Youth Scotland

The Committee received a deputation from Intercultural Youth Scotland presenting a brief outline of the findings of a research survey undertaken on the experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic young people in Scottish secondary schools.

The deputation was concerned about the level of under-reporting of racism within schools. They stressed that racism and bullying were absolutely not the same issue. They also highlighted the barriers to be overcome by BAME young people both within and outwith the school environment.

(b) Report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families

Communities and Families was committed to an inclusive and rights respecting approach to promoting equalities, preventing and addressing discrimination and bullying and closing the equity gap.

There were many positive examples of preventative, pro-active and responsive work relating to the above duty across the Council's education establishments and services. It was also recognised that the experiences reported by some children, young people and families indicated that consistency was still an issue which was being addressed.

A summary was provided of the work of primary, secondary and special schools, the Additional Support for Learning Service and Quality Improvement & Curriculum Service to promote equality and areas for improvement.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in promoting equality across City of Edinburgh schools, in all aspects of education systems, procedures and practices.
- 2) To agree to the next steps proposed at section 5 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families.
- 3) To agree that a report be presented in March 2020 to provide sufficient time for the impact of proposed actions at section 5 of the report to be evaluated.
- 4) To agree that an update be provided in the Business Bulletin for the December Committee to include:
 - Information on communications which had taken place with young people in the deputation from Intercultural Youth and across the city to explain in a user-friendly way the actions being taken forward by the Council together with proposed next steps to promote equality across the city.
 - Information on what engagement had taken place with young people across the city in terms of leading change on promoting equality.
 - Information on ways in which a better understanding of black history in Edinburgh and Scotland could be included in the school curriculum.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 5 March 2019 (item 7); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Dickie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as an Ambassador for Intercultural Youth Scotland.

2. Breakfast Clubs – St Francis’ RC, Niddrie Mill and Ferryhill Primary Schools

(a) Deputation – Save the Venchie

The deputation referred to the breakfast club provision offered by the Venchie Project and the impact on young people and families if the provision was no longer able to be delivered. The breakfast club provided support to vulnerable young people and was a safe space for them. They expressed concern that the transition to the universal breakfast club would not meet the needs of the young people.

The deputation asked the Committee to reconsider the grant funding requirements of the project going forward.

(b) Report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families

On 22 August 2019, the Council had agreed to provide temporary funding to the value of £10,000 to the Venchie Children and Young People's Project. This funding would end by 31 December 2019 when officers could confirm that all referred children had successfully transitioned to the universal breakfast club in their respective schools and that all appropriate support was in place.

Information was also presented on the replacement of Drylaw referred breakfast club and the Venchie Children and Young Peoples Project's referred breakfast club with the universal breakfast club provision in schools with a particular focus on attendance and attainment of the children attending St Francis' RC, Niddrie Mill and Ferryhill Primary Schools.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress outlined in the report.
- 2) To note that the Committee had previously agreed the approach of making universal breakfast clubs available to all children attending City of Edinburgh Council mainstream primary schools.
- 3) To agree to receive a further update in two committee cycles.
- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

- 1) To note that no pupils had transferred from the Venchie referred breakfast club to Niddrie Mill and St Francis primary schools and the Venchie remained operational and the first transition meeting was held on 3 October.
- 2) To note that currently school's attendance from pupils at the universal breakfast club and attending the Venchie was broadly comparable.
- 3) To agree that the key evidence would be whether this dropped for pupils formerly attending the Venchie who transition to the universal breakfast club.
- 4) To agree to report on both the impact on attendance AND on attainment (using comparable metrics such as SNSA assessments) of those children no longer attending the Venchie and Drylaw breakfast clubs within two cycles.
- 5) To agree to review the funding available for referred breakfast clubs should evidence suggest that attending universal breakfast clubs had negatively impacted on those children previously attending the referred providers.
- moved by Councillor Laidlaw, seconded by Councillor Webber

In accordance with Standing Order 21(1), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Perry:

- 1) To note the progress outlined in the report.
- 2) To note that the Committee had previously agreed the approach of making universal breakfast clubs available to all children attending City of Edinburgh Council mainstream primary schools.
- 3) To agree to receive a further update in two committee cycles.
- 4) To note that no pupils had transferred from the Venchie referred breakfast club to Niddrie Mill and St Francis primary schools and the Venchie remained operational and the first transition meeting was held on 3 October.
- 5) To note that currently school's attendance from pupils at the universal breakfast club and attending the Venchie was broadly comparable.
- 6) To agree that the key evidence would be whether this dropped for pupils formerly attending the Venchie who transition to the universal breakfast club.
- 7) To agree to report on both the impact on attendance (using comparable metrics such as SNSA assessments) of those children no longer attending the Venchie and Drylaw breakfast clubs within one cycle.
- 8) To agree that information would be provided to all political groups as part of the budget setting process.

(References – Act of Council No.23 of 22 August 2019; report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

3. Reducing Child Poverty and Holiday Hunger – Motion by Councillor Arthur

(a) Deputation – Edinburgh Trades Union Council

The deputation welcomed the terms of the motion by Councillor Arthur in addressing the issues of child poverty and holiday hunger. They referred to the negative impact of Universal Credit which disadvantaged certain groups financially. The deputation hoped that the report called for would comment on additional resources required for example to address impacts of poverty and hunger on mental health.

(b) Motion by Councillor Arthur – Reducing Child Poverty and Holiday Hunger

The following motion by Councillor Arthur was submitted in terms of Standing Order 30.1:

“Welcomes the moving testimony from Edinburgh Trade Union Council at the August Education, Children and Families Committee on the issue of child poverty and holiday hunger.

Recognises that child poverty is rising in Edinburgh and that the City of Edinburgh Council, The Scottish Government and the UK Government have a duty to use their powers to reverse this trend.

Recognises the excellent work of Council Officers, community groups and faith groups in helping low income families and note;

- All Primary Schools across the City now provide access to a universal breakfast club.
- Discover! aimed at reducing poverty and food/financial stress over the holidays has reported increased access to community provision, support services and families feeling less isolated
- Maximise! which works to improve financial resilience of families and has so far secured additional income of £946,623.50 for 398 families across the city.

Recognises, however, that many low-income families still find it difficult to provide three nutritious meals per day during holiday periods when free school meals are not available.

To note the next Reducing Child Poverty report will come to the Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2020 which will include an update on the work ongoing to reduce child poverty and holiday hunger.

To request that this report also includes information on the feasibility of the Council doing more to tackle holiday hunger either alone or via increased partnership working in this area.”

- moved by Councillor Arthur, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Decision

To approve the motion.

(Reference – Education, Children and Families Committee 16 August 2019 (item 1))

4. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 16 August as a correct record.

5. Rolling Actions Log

The Rolling Actions Log for October 2019 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To close the following actions:
 - Action 4 – Open Library - transferred to Culture & Communities Committee
 - Action 5 – Raising Attainment Framework for Learning

Action 16 – Petition – Edinburgh Central Library v Virgin Hotel – transferred to Culture & Communities Committee

Action 23 – Care Inspectorate Assessment of Children’s Services

Action 24 – Carers Scotland Act Update

Action 26 – Schooling Options for Children Living in Edinburgh

2) To update the rolling actions log to reflect the decisions taken at this meeting.

3) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log – 8 October 2019, submitted).

6. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for October 2019 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted).

7. Primary and Special School Lets Update – Impact of the Asset Management Works Programme on Summer Holiday Bookings

The Primary and Special School Lets Team continued to support access to over 100 buildings across the school estate whilst also supporting the Asset Management Works (AMW) Programme and the Facilities Management (FM) improvement programmes.

Information was provided on the impact of the AMW Programme on booking requests for school lets over the 2019 summer holiday period.

Decision

1) To note the unprecedented access pressures on the Primary and Special School estate where 51 schools were part of the Asset Management Works (AMW) Programme.

2) To note the work done by Facilities Management, AMW and the School Lets Team to support each other to minimise the impact on the let holders.

3) To request an impact report of the AMW Programme on Term Time bookings academic year 2019/20 for the next Committee meeting, the report to include customer satisfaction data.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

8. Children and Young People’s Participation

An update was provided on work underway to examine how the key messages from *What Kind of Edinburgh?* could be used to form the basis of a new Children’s Services Plan.

The *What Kind of Edinburgh?* project report had been sent to all schools and senior education staff asking them to consider how they could act on the points raised by the children and young people. Articles had also featured on the Orb, the Scottish Government website and Children in Scotland had prepared a case study.

A Children and Young People Participation Group had been established comprising representatives from the Council, NHS and other partners. The Group aimed to co-ordinate and feedback on children and young people's participation activities.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made on joined-up children and young people's participation and the planned next steps.
- 2) To note the issues raised by children and young people through ongoing participation and approve the progress made to deliver the changes required.
- 3) To note the formation of a Children and Young People's Participation Group, which would connect with young people's feedback from Youth Talk, *What kind of Edinburgh?*, schools and youth groups to identify and report on the top issues.
- 4) To note the strong focus on involving as yet unheard voices from across disadvantaged groups.
- 5) To request a further report on participation and progress relating to the top priorities in six months to be delivered by children and young people.
- 6) To request that communications were emailed regularly to teaching staff and youth workers providing live progress updates on actions from the "What Kind of Edinburgh" project report.
- 7) To provide a progress update in the Business Bulletin for the December Committee.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 21 May 2019 (item 6); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

9. Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice Amongst Children and Young People

Across the City of Edinburgh schools, anti-bullying and anti-discriminatory attitudes and behaviours were promoted through a range of preventative, proactive and responsive approaches. Schools currently used a range of strategies to proactively encourage children and young people to report incidents and suspected incidents of bullying.

The City of Edinburgh's Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice Amongst Children and Young People procedure has recently been revised and had been shared with schools this session.

To ensure that the revised procedures had maximum impact, schools would be required to identify Anti-Bullying Champions from both the staff and pupil bodies. The procedures would be formally launched to these Champions in parallel with full training for schools delivered by respectme over a 6 month period from November 2019 to April 2020.

Decision

- 1) To note the continued work of teams across City of Edinburgh Council, our staff in schools and partners to promote respect, positive attitudes and positive relationships by embedding the rights of children in our schools.
- 2) To note the revised procedures for Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in City of Edinburgh schools based on recent Scottish Government guidance.
- 3) To note that greater effort was required from all stakeholders including staff, Parent Councils, and in supporting children's voice in extending rights-based learning.
- 4) To note the current incident figures, including concerns of under reporting in relation to racist incidents.
- 5) To note that the delivery of the actions set out in this report was likely to require additional resource.
- 6) To provide an update in the Business Bulletin for the December Committee giving details on the level of additional resource that would be required to establish a service to support children and young people with reporting bullying including racist bullying.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Dickie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as an Ambassador for Intercultural Youth Scotland.

10. The Edinburgh Children's Partnership – Annual Report 2018-19 for the Children's Services Plan 2017–2020

The second Annual Report on the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 was presented. The report set out information on progress made in the first two years against each of the five strategic outcomes together with some of the key challenges being faced. A summary was also submitted of the key priorities for the year ahead emerging from the ongoing work within the Plan as well as from the various self-evaluation and engagement activities undertaken by partners.

Decision

To approve the Annual Report for 2018-19 for the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2017-2020.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 August 2017 (item 6); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

11. Award of Contracts to the Open Framework for Support Services under Options 2, 3 & 4 of The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013

Approval was sought for the award of 18 providers to the open Framework who would provide care and support to Edinburgh's children and young people with disabilities and their families in line with Options 2, 3 & 4 of the Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013.

Decision

- 1) To agree to appoint 18 providers to the Open Framework for Support Services under Options 2,3 & 4 of The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013.
- 2) To note that the report would be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 10 October 2019 for final approval.
- 3) To note that the Framework duration would be for 48 months starting from 1 November 2019.
- 4) To note that the total estimated maximum value of call off contracts to the Council was £4,000,000 and that this would be dependent on the mix of direct payments and Options 2, 3 and 4 services agreed with the service user.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families submitted).

12. Statutory Consultations – Kirkliston and Queensferry

Following informal consultation, the proposed scope of the consultations to address the future of primary and secondary provision in Kirkliston and the establishment of a new primary school as part of the Builyon Road development in Queensferry had changed.

Approval was sought in both cases to progress with a first phase of consultation work. Draft consultation papers for both proposals were submitted and approval was also sought to finalise these papers ahead of publication and the commencement of statutory consultation processes.

Decision

- 1) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Communities and Families to finalise and publish the draft statutory consultation paper set out in Appendix 1 of the report proposing the establishment of an annex to Kirkliston Primary School incorporating any changes agreed by this Committee.

- 2) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Communities and Families to finalise and publish the draft statutory consultation paper set out in Appendix 2 of the report proposing to realign the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School incorporating any changes agreed by this Committee.
- 3) To note that the statutory consultation to allow the establishment of a new primary school at Builyeon Road in Queensferry would be brought forward once a masterplan for the development has been agreed.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 21 May 2019 (item 7); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young declared a non-financial interest in the above item as the parent of a child attending one of the affected schools.

13. Early Years 1140 Expansion Progress and Risk Update

An update was submitted on progress being made towards achieving the targeted 1140 hours of early years provision by August 2020, together with the associated infrastructure programme.

The main risks associated with the project related to the commitments made by the Council and the Scottish Government to deliver 1140 hours of funded ELC and to ensure that the new provision made was accessible and flexible to meet the needs of Edinburgh's families.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note the intention to return a report on the revised Early Years Admissions policy to Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2020.
- 3) To approve the continued distribution of funded ELC places 65% local authority provision and 35% partner provider provision
- 4) To commend the staff for their efforts and commitment towards ensuring that the project was delivered on time.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

14. Education Improvement Plan

The Education Authority Improvement Plan set out the actions at authority and school level to meet local and national improvement objectives including those for the National Improvement Framework.

This was the third iteration of a three-year plan and most actions were now at the 'embedding' stage.

Progress across each theme was reported in the relevant Edinburgh Learns Annual Report. An additional We Said We Would Report showed examples of progress.

Decision

To approve the updated Education Improvement Plan.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

15. Standards and Quality Reports – Edinburgh Learns

The Edinburgh Learns Annual Reports were presented setting out examples of stakeholder engagement as well as analysis of data including external scrutiny from HMI.

Overall performance, taking all National Improvement Framework objectives and drivers into consideration, was assessed as good, with a strong level of confidence. Key priorities continued to be closing the poverty-related attainment gap building on the strengths which were emerging in the broad general education.

Decision

- 1) To note the substantial work undertaken across schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings detailed in each Edinburgh Learns annual report.
- 2) To note the specific examples contained within the We Said We Would magazine.
- 3) To approve the strengths and areas for development contained in each report.
- 4) To continue to support and promote the empowered work which is driving improvement.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

16. Educational Attainment in the Broad General Education 2018-19

An update was provided of improvements and areas of development in the educational attainment of children and young people from P1 to S3.

Details were also provided of the wide range of strategies deployed to raise attainment and proposed additional strategies for session 2019-20.

Decision

- 1) To note the areas of improvement in educational attainment in Edinburgh schools within the Broad General Education.
- 2) To note the wide range of strategies that were deployed to raise attainment and the proposed additional strategies for session 2019-20.
- 3) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment and improvements in performance.

- 4) To note the continued hard work of pupils, staff and parents to support the successful delivery of the Broad General Education as part of the Curriculum for Excellence.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 22 May 2018 (item ...); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

17. Internal Audit – Communities and Families Historic Audit Actions – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred two overdue historic actions relating to the Foster and Kinship Care Vetting, Approval and Agreements and Use of Unsupported Technology Devices in Schools to Committee for review and scrutiny.

Decision

To note the management updates and actions being taken to address the outstanding audit actions.

(References – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 13 August 2019, submitted)

18. Edinburgh Learns Inclusion Annual Report

A summary was provided of the work of the Edinburgh Learns Framework Board during 2019-20 together with information on local data to support the local authority's inclusive practice.

During this period, the Edinburgh Learns Inclusion Framework had been consulted on, finalised and issues to all schools. The Framework ensured the multi-disciplinary shared approach to inclusive practice strategy sat within the citywide strategy for school improvement and planning.

Decision

- 1) To note completion of a clear framework and vision for inclusion including consultation with children and young people as outlined in the Edinburgh Learns Inclusion Framework.
- 2) To note the reduction in exclusions and school days lost through exclusion.
- 3) To note that most pupils put forward for pathway 4 special school provision received a placement offer.
- 4) To note that engagement work would be taken forward with young people who had experienced exclusions and flexible timetables, especially those who were care experienced, to gather their views on their educational experience and the forward change that would help get it right for them.
- 5) To agree to receive further annual reports on inclusion.

- 6) To agree that the Board would identify strategic tasks in relation to inclusion and liaise with senior managers to request the establishment of working groups to progress them.
- 7) To note the continued hard work of pupils, staff, parents and partners to develop positive and inclusive learning communities.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

19. Edinburgh Champions Board Progress Update

Progress was reported on the development of the Edinburgh Champions Board. Since its inception in the summer of 2018, the Board had grown and broadened its membership to involve young people who had experienced a range of care provision.

In June 2019, further Life Changes Trust funding had been awarded to expand and extend the work of the Champions Board and associated corporate parenting initiatives for a further two years. A summary of the full three year funding award and the associated match funding from the Council was set out in the appendix to the report.

Decision

To note the progress on corporate parenting actions, the work of the Champions Board, and endorse the future programme of work.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

20. Lifelong Learning Service Plan

An update was provided on progress being made to develop the Lifelong Learning Service Plan during the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

In developing the Plan, five priorities had been identified with outcomes relating to learners of all ages. The priorities linked to the National Improvement Framework to ensure a strong alignment with research and evidence about what improves outcomes for learners whether formal or informal, in school or in the community.

Decision

- 1) To note the update on the Lifelong Learning Service Plan.
- 2) To agree to receive a further update in October 2020.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2018 (item 9); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted)

21. Motion by Councillor Mary Campbell – Overseas Travel Excursions Policy

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Mary Campbell in terms of Standing Order 16.1:

“Committee:

Notes that Edinburgh Council Excursions Policy on travel overseas does not cover consideration of the Council's 1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty Strategy or the Council target to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Requests officers consult with young people and draft a reviewed section on travel overseas that will be in line with the 1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty Strategy and the carbon neutral target of 2030 and bring it to Committee in 1 cycle.”

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Corbett

Decision

To approve the motion.