

Motion by the Conservative Group

Full Council – 10 December 2020

Funding of Flu Vaccine by Headteachers for Staff

Council:

Notes that in previous winter terms, Headteachers were permitted to use school funds to cover winter flu jabs and a number had planned and budgeted this vaccination for staff in 2020, especially as a means to help reduce absences and co-infection with COVID; noting that supply teachers are in particularly short supply due to the pressures of the pandemic.

Notes that the private provision of flu vaccination can be done quickly and at relatively low cost (circa £12-15 per head).

Notes that a new Directive from City of Edinburgh Council advised Headteachers that they were no longer to use discretionary school funds to pay for flu vaccines for staff.

Notes that this new Directive has led some Headteachers to request that vaccination funds are covered by Parent Councils.

Notes that, given the pandemic, greater numbers of people have been offered the flu vaccine by government and all those offered the vaccine are being urged to take up the offer to protect themselves and others and help the NHS avoid additional pressure over the winter period.

Notes that ordering by private providers of flu vaccination is done many months in advance of the flu season and thus schools choosing to spend discretionary funds on flu jabs for staff will not be impacting on supplies provided to vulnerable groups free of charge.

Requests that City of Edinburgh Council rescinds the directive to headteachers asking them not to spend discretionary funds on flu vaccinations and allows them to make a decision based on their perceived need and with the goal to protect staff and prevent absences in this challenging year.

Moved by: Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Seconded by: Councillor Susan Webber

Education, Children & Families Committee City of Edinburgh Council 15 December 2020 Item 7.1 Energy in Schools - Annual Report

Add to recommendations;

1.1.5 Requests an update in the next Business Bulletin on the potential for schools to be heated using ground source heat pumps and other renewable sources;

1.1.6 Refers this report to Policy & Sustainability committee for information.

Moved by Councillor Steve Burgess

Seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Education, Children and Families

15 December 2020

Item 7.2 - Teaching, Learning & Assessment in the Broad General Education – Covid Context

Recommendations

1.1.1 Notes the report and adds:

1.1.2 Notes that City of Edinburgh Council received approx. 3,500 fewer digital learning devices (i.e. iPads) from Scottish Government than was expected and this has impacted on the ability on deliver online learning if required.

1.1.3 Notes that device roll-out was further complicated by SIMD profiles being recently redrawn nationally meaning that some children are no longer deemed to be in equity cohorts, despite living in poverty.

1.1.4 Notes that the Audit of Digital and Remote Learning provision issued to all schools with a completion date of 18/11/20 but that findings have not yet been shared with elected members.

1.1.5 Agrees that the Convener write to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney MSP, to clarify why City of Edinburgh Council has received fewer devices than expected and asks for the shortfall to be made-up, aligned with the results of the audit.

Moved by: Councillor Callum Laidlaw

Seconded by: Councillor Jason Rust