

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10:00am, Tuesday 23 February 2021

## Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Funding of Flu Vaccine by Headteachers for Staff – referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee

Item number  
Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. For Decision/Action

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- 1.1 The Policy and Sustainability Committee is requested to note the terms of the motion by Councillor Laidlaw.
- 1.2 Committee is asked to note that the Education, Children and Families accepted Councillor Laidlaw's motion and schools will continue to arrange flu vaccination facilities where they consider it to be a priority.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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# Referral Report

## Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Funding of Flu Vaccine by Headteachers for Staff

### 2. Terms of Referral

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- 2.1 On 15 December 2020, the Education, Children and Families Committee considered the following motion by Councillor Laidlaw which had been referred from the Council of 20 December 2020:

“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.”

2.2 The Education, Children and Families Committee agreed:

2.2.1 To approve the motion by Councillor Laidlaw.

2.2.2 To refer the motion to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for noting.

### **3. Background Reading/ External References**

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3.1 [Webcast of Education, Children and Families Committee 15 December 2020](#)

### **4. Appendices**

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Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Funding of flu vaccine by Headteachers for staff

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# Motion by the Conservative Group

## Full Council

10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Funding of flu vaccine by Headteachers for staff

Council:

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

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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**