

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 21 May 2019

Present:

Councillors Perry (Convener), Dickie (Vice-Convener), Bird, Mary Campbell, Jim Campbell (substituting for Councillor Rust), Corbett, Doggart (substituting for Councillor Laidlaw), Fullerton (substituting for Councillor Key), Griffiths, Smith and Young.

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge and Monsignor Anthony Duffy.

Parent Representative

Alexander Ramage (non-voting).

1. Deputation – Scottish Youth Climate Strikers

The Committee received a deputation from Meelu Saraswata Bhatla, Caitlin Conway and Ester Silverton of the Scottish Youth Climate Strikers in relation to the strike against climate change.

The deputation made the following points:

- Climate change was the most important issue facing the next generation and had to be dealt with to preserve the natural environment.
- By 2030, there had to be significant reform or climate change would be irreversible.
- The vast majority of school students could not vote and the only way to influence politicians was through climate strikes.
- The Council had been very supportive of the climate strikes and were urged to continue their commitment.
- The Global Movement had inspired the youth of Scotland to demonstrate their commitment to the care of the planet.
- The movement provided school students opportunities to learn valuable life skills.
- The strikes also showed politicians what young people thought and to consider this when they made decisions that affected young people.
- On 15 March 2019 more than a million people from 125 countries took part in the climate strike and if the Council gave permission for the strike on 24 May 2019 young people could be heard on this issue.

- The fact that young people were prepared to sacrifice some of their education demonstrated their commitment to preventing the downward spiral of global warming.

The deputation requested the Committee to support the strike on 24 May 2019 to allow the youth to have their voices heard.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised.
- 2) To advise the deputation of the decision (see item 2 below).

The full presentation can be viewed via the link below.

https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/368123

2. Emergency Motion by Councillor Mary Campbell – Global Strike for Future

The Convener ruled the following motion by Councillor Mary Campbell as urgent to allow the Committee to consider it at this meeting:

Motion

- 1) Committee notes that, on the previous worldwide climate strike day on the 15th of March 2019, Edinburgh was widely held as a leader for the UK in offering a supportive and managed environment in which young people could take action and have their voices heard about a major issue affecting their future.
 - 2) Committee notes the motion from the 5th of March 2019 which recognised that children and young people in Edinburgh have self-organised involvement in the worldwide Strike for Climate and that there should be no punitive action for pupils who are concerned about climate breakdown and feel they need to participate in the climate strike, and believes that school staff should continue to support and engage with pupils who feel so passionately about climate breakdown.
 - 3) Committee recognises the internationally organised 'Global Strike for Future' on Friday the 24th of May 2019 and that school students in Edinburgh have notified the Council of a march from the Meadows to the Scottish Parliament for this occasion and therefore, to allow school students to take part in this unique march, that this day should be considered by the authority as an authorised absence from school for all pupils not sitting an SQA exam, as long as a parent/carer has sent prior written permission to their child's school with a clear statement that the parent/carer will be responsible for their child during the absence from school.
- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett

Amendment

To take no action on the motion.

- moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Doggart

Voting

For the motion - 8
For the amendment - 3

(For the motion – Councillors Bird, Mary Campbell, Corbett, Dickie, Fullerton, Griffiths, Perry and Young)

(For the amendment – Councillors Jim Campbell, Doggart and Smith.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mary Campbell.

3. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 5 March 2019 as a correct record.

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Rolling Actions Log for May 2019 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To close the following actions:
 - Action 3 – Support to Children and Young People with Disabilities: Annual Progress Report
 - Action 4 - Child Poverty - Equity Framework
 - Action 12 - Additional Support for Learning and Special Schools – Inclusion and Engagement of Children, Young People and Families
 - Action 14(1) - Appointments to Sub-Committees on Standards for Children and Families – Wester Hailes Working Group
 - Action 15 - Play Schemes for Children with Disabilities Progress Report
 - Action 18 - Motion by Councillor Jim Campbell – School Recruitment
 - Action 26 - Child Poverty Action Unit
 - Item 31 - Revenue Monitoring 2018/19 – Month Five Position
 - Item 32 - The Growing City, School Roll Projections and Future Accommodation Requirements
 - Item 36(2) - Early Years 1140 Expansion: Progress and Risk Update
- 2) To update the rolling actions log to reflect decisions taken at this meeting.

- 3) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions
(Reference – Rolling Actions Log – 21 May 2019, submitted).

5. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for May 2019 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted).

6. What Kind of Edinburgh? – Outcomes and Next Steps

The report by the Executive Director for Communities was intended to accompany the presentation of the children and young people's magazine *'What kind of Edinburgh? Children and young people across Edinburgh influencing the city's services'* (see appendix 1 of the report). It set out the core messages from participants in the programme and invited Committee members to respond to these. The report also explored potential ways forward regarding children and young people's participation across the city.

Motion

- 1) To congratulate the children and young people on their contribution.
 - 2) To note the significance and value of this work and consider how Edinburgh as a city might respond to the six key messages from children and young people (set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report).
 - 3) To endorse the approach taken with What Kind of Edinburgh? as a model of good practice to be developed and adapted for engaging with children and young people in shaping policy.
 - 4) To request regular updates on work to raise the voice and influence of young people, and progress made in relation to the issues they highlighted.
 - 5) To request a further report on how the various youth engagement activities (i.e. What Kind of Edinburgh, Youth Talk, Young Edinburgh Action and Scottish Youth Parliament, Making a Difference) could work together in a more consistent and coherent way.
- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie

Amendment

To amend decision 5 to read:

- 5) To request a further report on how the various youth engagement activities (i.e. What Kind of Edinburgh, Youth Talk, Young Edinburgh Action and Scottish Youth Parliament, Making a Difference) could work together in a more consistent and coherent way, including the possibility of a mechanism that would allow young people to input thoughts to Committee members.

To add an additional recommendation:

- 6) To ensure Council staff and Councillors received a digital copy of What Kind of Edinburgh?

- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

In accordance with Standing Order 21(11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To congratulate the children and young people on their contribution.
- 2) To note the significance and value of this work and consider how Edinburgh as a city might respond to the six key messages from children and young people (set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report).
- 3) To endorse the approach taken with What Kind of Edinburgh? as a model of good practice to be developed and adapted for engaging with children and young people in shaping policy.
- 4) To request regular updates on work to raise the voice and influence of young people, and progress made in relation to the issues they highlighted.
- 5) To request a further report on how the various youth engagement activities (i.e. What Kind of Edinburgh, Youth Talk, Young Edinburgh Action and Scottish Youth Parliament, Making a Difference) could work together in a more consistent and coherent way, including the possibility of a mechanism that would allow young people to input thoughts to Committee members.
- 6) To ensure Council staff and Councillors received a digital copy of What Kind of Edinburgh?

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 5 March 2019 (item 14); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

7. Future Statutory Consultation Requirements

The Committee had previously considered a report on “The Growing City, School Roll Projections and Future Accommodation Requirements” which included a list of the future education capital projects which required to be progressed as a result of rising school rolls or due to inclusion as infrastructure requirements in the Local Development Plan Action Programme.

A summary was provided of the statutory consultations that would be required for some of these projects to be progressed. The draft statutory consultation papers would be submitted to Committee for consideration.

Motion

- 1) To note the report and approve that draft statutory consultation papers were brought forward to future Committee meetings for consideration before publication.
- 2) To approve that the use of the new pupil generation from new housing rates included in appendix 1 of the report would be used for the school roll projections contained in the statutory consultation papers.
 - moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie.

Amendment

To amend decision 1 to read:

- 1) To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families and approve that draft statutory consultation papers were brought forward to future Committee meetings, after informal consultation with affected communities, for consideration before publication.
 - moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

In accordance with Standing Order 21(11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families and approve that draft statutory consultation papers were brought forward to future Committee meetings, after informal consultation with affected communities, for consideration before publication.
- 2) To approve that the use of the new pupil generation from new housing rates included in appendix 1 of the report would be used for the school roll projections contained in the statutory consultation papers.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 11 December 2018 (item 12); 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 a parent of a child attending one of the affected schools.

8. Schools Grounds Update

Play Services Ireland were appointed to undertake inspections of all Communities and Families schools, Early Years and Community Centre grounds. The inspections were conducted in December 2018 and Play Services Ireland had provided reports in batches since February 2019.

The process of working through the inspection reports provided by Play Services Ireland was ongoing, however, key findings and recommendations were that there were significant savings to be made by having the Council's inhouse Workshops team undertake the repair work and the installation of new equipment and that access to inspection services must be improved to ensure the return of quality reports.

Decision

- 1) To approve that two additional staff be recruited to the Council's Workshops to allow a saving of at least £270,000 to be realised and assist in the maintenance of school grounds and the manufacture of play installations for Early Years settings.
- 2) To note that these positions would be funded from capital projects including the Early Years Scottish Government grant allocation.
- 3) To note the ongoing work to improve the access the Council had to a range of inspection services with a view to establishing a more comprehensive framework by March 2020.
- 4) To note the intention to tender for inspection services in May to allow inspections of all Communities and Families establishments grounds to be undertaken in September/October 2019.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2018 (item 8); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families submitted).

9. Assisted Travel Policy and Guidelines: Home to School

Parents/ carers had a responsibility to ensure that their child/young person attended school, including providing their required travel arrangements. The City of Edinburgh Council might, however, provide travel assistance if the child/young person met the distance criteria or had additional support needs that prevented them from travelling accompanied as necessary.

Details were provided of the Edinburgh Children's Partnership aims, which were to ensure that children and young people's attendance, engagement and achievement would be improved.

Other measures included the Council's provision of a wide range of assisted transport across Edinburgh and the revision of existing Home to School Policy.

Decision

- 1) To note the existing Home to School Policy and Guidelines (Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families) was first drafted in 1989 and last reviewed in 2011.
- 2) To approve the proposed Assisted Travel Policy and Guidelines on the basis that they reflected the aims of the 2017/20 Edinburgh Children's Services Plan and took into account the changes to legislative framework that governed the delivery of Education and Social Work Services, including the Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013.
- 3) To note that the revised Assisted Travel Policy and Guidelines (Appendices 2 and 3 of the report) would help to improve quality of information, reduce duplication, improve service delivery, and increase efficiency.

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

10. Primary and Secondary Schools Let Update

Business Support for supporting community access to primary and special school through school lets had faced several challenges in the last twelve months. These included staff turnover and workforce development and training, implementation of 32 hours a year free access of community time in schools and the CEC Asset Management Programme.

The report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families detailed the progress made in dealing with these challenges and highlighted new ones that were expected to emerge in the future.

Decision

- 1) To note the actions taken to improve the management and customer service experience.
- 2) To note the work done to manage the impact of the Asset Management Works Programme.
- 3) To request that an update report was brought to the next committee when the activity during the summer would be known and able to be compared with 2018/19.
- 4) To request a further report in October 2019 on the numbers of lets applied and any issues for organisations not getting lets.

- 5) To agree that the update report be brought back to the Committee in October 2019.

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

11. Improving Attainment – Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund

Educational outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People were generally poorer than the outcomes for non-Care Experienced Children. This was the case in Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK. The Scottish Government released additional Scottish Attainment Challenge funds in the 2018-19 session to help all local authorities achieve improvements and the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families detailed the work that had been identified in Edinburgh to address the gap in educational attendance and, in particular, attainment.

Decision

- 1) To note the work being taken forward to improve learning outcomes for Care Experienced Young People supported by the Fund.
- 2) To ask for a follow-up report to this Committee in early 2020 setting out progress on the implementation of current proposals and the outcomes of participation work with Care Experienced Young People and how that work would impact on Fund spend next year and beyond.
- 3) To agree that the Corporate Parenting Member Office Group would continue to oversee attainment and other learning outcomes of Care Experience Young People and report to this committee as necessary.
- 4) To provide clarification on how much was spent from the Young People Fund on a personalised approach for care experienced young people.

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

12. Choose Youth Work

The Committee was informed of the process of the third and final year of the Choose Youth Work programme and the outcome in terms of awards granted to the organisations listed in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, for the citywide and North East, South East and South West localities' programmes for 2019-20. The awards in North West would be reported at a later date.

Decision

- 1) To note the awards in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To note that a further report detailing awards in North West locality would be reported to Committee at a later date.
- 3) To thank the young people for their work and support to help make Choose Youth Work happen.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016 (item 9); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

13. Senior Phase Attainment 2017-18

A summary was provided of the key outcomes in relation to attainment/improvements in performance in the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) secondary schools for the Senior Phase (S4 to S6) in the academic session 2017-18.

The report focused on the attainment of school leavers for session 2017-18.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the Senior Phase in City of Edinburgh secondary schools.
- 2) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment/improvements in performance in the Senior Phase.
- 3) To note the continued hard work of pupils, staff and parents to support the successful delivery of national qualifications in session 2017-18.

(References - Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2018 (item 12); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted.)

14. Response to Incident Survey

An update was provided following the deputation to December Committee by EIS, "to consider the findings in the survey and report back to the next Committee on proposed changes and improvements which can be made."

Motion

To note the update following the deputation to December Committee by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS).

- moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Dickie.

Amendment

To add an additional recommendation:

- 2) To ensure that any future report included details on:
 - Quality assurance to ensure that incidents were reported correctly and consistently.
 - Actions that were taken when incidents are being reported.
 - Work with the Unions to ensure there were no gaps in the reporting data.
 - Actions that were being taken to support teachers and PSAs who experienced a violent incident.
- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Corbett.

In accordance with Standing Order 21(11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the update following the deputation to December Committee by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS).
- 2) To ensure that any future report included details on:
 - Quality assurance to ensure that incidents were reported correctly and consistently.
 - Actions that were taken when incidents are being reported.
 - Work with the Unions to ensure there were no gaps in the reporting data.
 - Actions that were being taken to support teachers and PSAs who experienced a violent incident.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 11 December 2018 (item 4); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

15. Edinburgh Learns – Equity – Actions to Improve Outcomes for Children in Poverty

A summary was provided of the work of the Quality Improvement Team, primary and secondary schools (including those in the Scottish Attainment Challenge Schools Programme) to support and improve equity in learning and attainment. This included additional staffing, resources, programmes and interventions funded by Pupil Equity Funding.

Details were provided of The Edinburgh Learns: Equity framework (appendix 1 of the report), which was a key strand of the City of Edinburgh's Raising Attainment strategy and areas for further improvement.

Decision

- 1) To note the areas of improvement in equity in Edinburgh schools.
- 2) To note the wide range of strategies and resources that were deployed to raise attainment, support equity and achieve excellence in schools and with partners.
- 3) To agree to receive further annual reports on Edinburgh Learns: Equity.
- 4) To note the continued hard work of pupils, staff, partners, communities and families to support the successful delivery of National Improvement Framework priorities 1 and 2 (see Appendix 2 of the report).

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2018 (item 11); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

16. Edinburgh Learns – Framework for Digital Learning

As part of the Edinburgh Learns suite of guidance, the report detailed how attainment would be raised across the city's schools through improved teaching and learning, using digital technologies. It specified the actions required at all levels to consistently and sustainably provide digital access and emphasised the need for close partnership working and the requirement to ensure equity of access.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Learns Framework for Digital Learning, to develop and extend digital learning across the City.
- 2) To note the need for partnership working.
- 3) To note the adherence to commitment on improving equity.
- 4) To request a report in December 2019 which detailed the progress made on the implementation of the digital strategy. This should focus on any technical difficulties encountered with the infrastructure and any technical support required as identified by the officer working group including cluster technicians, school budgets and the affordability of hardware, and Wi-Fi access at home.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 19 May 2015 (item 21); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

17. Edinburgh Learns – Health and Wellbeing

A summary was provided of some of the main approaches to developing health and wellbeing across schools in Edinburgh as part of Edinburgh Learns, the strategy to raise attainment for all. While mental health and wellbeing remained the most important area for support, the strategic group had also focused on the full range of wellbeing indicators and provided information on the actions and progress for these.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in Health and Wellbeing in City of Edinburgh schools.
- 2) To agree to receive further annual reports on Health and Wellbeing in Edinburgh Schools.
- 3) To note the continued hard work of teams across departments within City of Edinburgh, the staff in schools and partners to support the health and wellbeing of our children and young people.

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

18. Supporting Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in School

The Committee had previously considered a report which highlighted the wide range of high-quality interventions, preventative approaches, training and initiatives working well to support children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing in schools.

An update was provided which followed the recommendations made in March and October 2018 with regard to supporting children and young peoples’ mental health and wellbeing in schools and provided an overview of the ongoing work. This included the details of the latest consultation with respect to providing better support for young peoples’ mental health and wellbeing as well as exploring identification and access to people who could support them at point of need.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committees of 6 March 2018 (item 19) and 9 October 2018 (item 14); report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

19. Appointments to Sub-Committees on Standards for Children and Families, Consultative Committee with Parents and Working Groups 2019/2020

The Committee was required to annually re-appoint the membership of its Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families, Consultative Committee with Parents and Working Groups. The proposed membership structures and remits of each were detailed in appendices 1 to 6 of the report by the Chief Executive.

Decision

- 1) To approve the membership of Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

- 2) To appoint Councillor Perry as Convener of the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families, Councillor Griffiths to the Labour vacancy and Rabbi Rose as the religious representative.
- 3) To approve the membership of the Consultative Committee with Parents as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, subject to agreeing that the parental representative on the Education, Children and Families Committee should also be a standing member on the Consultative Committee.
- 4) To appoint Councillor Perry as Convener of the Consultative Committee with Parents.
- 5) To appoint the membership of the Working Groups for 2019/20 as set out in the Appendixes 3 to 6 of the report.

(References – Act of Council No 8 of 28 June 2018; report by the Chief Executive, submitted).