

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 31 January 2023

Teams Around the Learning Communities

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve proof of concept case studies in the Liberton and Craigmoynton learning communities.

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Teams Around the Learning Communities

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This proposal aims to develop place-based approaches to providing integrated services that remove duplication, provide best value by aligning spend to outcomes and have clear lines of accountability and governance. Proofs of Concept will be developed in the Liberton and Craigmoynton learning communities and will ensure that Headteachers plan interventions in collaboration with local communities, and existing council and third sector services. It is anticipated that outcomes for improving attainment, attendance, health and wellbeing and pathways will be improved, particularly to address the impacts of poverty.

3. Background

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council's Business plan sets out a commitment to focus on three priorities; ending poverty and preventing adverse outcomes such as homelessness and unemployment, becoming sustainable and net zero city and making sure wellbeing and equalities are enhanced for all. These are aligned with the priorities set out in the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan which were developed based on feedback from communities. The priorities, shared by all members of the Edinburgh Partnership, are that all citizens have; enough money to live on, opportunities to work, learning and training and have a good place to live.
- 3.2 The outcomes relating to ending poverty include; developing people focussed service models aimed at preventing poverty and its outcomes, reducing the poverty related attainment gap and ensuring that people can access the support they need in the place they live and work with a '20 minute neighbourhood'.
- 3.3 The Poverty Prevention Board has a remit to lead, and co-ordinate poverty priority actions identified in the Council Business Plan with a focus on: addressing cost of living crisis, the prevention of poverty through whole family support services and ensuring commissioning and grant activity delivers our poverty prevention priorities.
- 3.4 The work of the Poverty Prevention Board is underpinned by the following principles:
- 3.4.1 Join up activities and programmes that have cross service dependencies

- 3.4.2 Improve impact by pooling resources (money and people) towards shared outcomes
 - 3.4.3 Reduce duplication, waste, and inefficiencies
 - 3.4.4 improve consistency of offer for people we support
 - 3.4.5 Improve accountability and governance of poverty prevention activity
- 3.5 In the Local Government in Scotland Overview 2022, Audit Scotland concluded that collaborative leadership, working closely with communities and the third sector, and improvements in data management and strategic decision making were all essential for continued Recovery and Renewal. This Proof of Concept encompasses those principles.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Learning Communities are based on the cluster model, but now include special schools, denominational schools, early years establishments, wider council services and third sector organisations in the geographical area of the secondary school catchment area. Within in the Edinburgh Learns for Life vision, collaborative leadership is being developed across each of the learning communities to improve the outcomes for children and young people through shared strategies for progress in learning, GiRfEC and curriculum pathways for every learner.
- 4.2 Teams Around the Learning Communities will be required to take a collective, place-based approach to the management of Finance for Equity (for example Pupil Equity Fund) by pooling resources. This should result in economies of scale as well as reducing the risk of services being duplicated.
- 4.3 The concept of this Team Around the Learning Community will be expanded beyond school staff to include wider council and third-party services to establish integrated service design and delivery that is developed with the community and is responsive to the needs of that community. The 'place' in this 'place-based approach' is the learning community.
- 4.4 Currently, within each learning community there are additional funding streams such as PEF allocated to schools to address gaps in outcomes related to poverty and other factors. The majority of this funding is spent on staffing, the rest is predominately then used to buy additional services from third parties. Initial mapping of the assets across learning communities, set the equity funding resources alongside central education services, wider council services and grant funded third sector organisations and suggests duplication and fragmentation.
- 4.5 An integrated whole family support model has the potential to address this fragmentation, remove duplication and take advantage of the synergies made possible by equity funding in schools, the breadth of current council services and the rich third sector provision that exists in our city. This model has the potential to offer better value for money if the service model is focussed on poverty prevention and aligned to a clear set of outcome measures. These outcome measures are known as 'the Edinburgh Imperatives':
 - Maximising Attendance

- Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap
- Accredited Pathways
- Health and wellbeing

4.6 Education Senior Leadership Team, in partnership with the Planning and Commissioning Team and Commercial and Procurement Services, are working together to produce a framework of commissioned services that would facilitate compliant third party spend to address any gaps in provision within each Learning Community.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 A mapping exercise will be undertaken that will identify services and details current performance measures (Edinburgh Imperatives) will be completed in each Learning Community.
- 5.2 Within the existing funding framework we will develop a proof of concept of an alternative service delivery model in two learning communities. Officers from the Poverty Prevention board will engage with the Edinburgh Partnership and Place Team who are working on priority 3: A good place to live, from the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan. This team have an existing focus on community planning partnership efforts in Liberton to deliver new development in accordance with the principles of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Proof of concept case studies will be developed in the Liberton and Craigroyston learning communities.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Funding from the Strategic Equity Fund will be used to develop proof of concept case studies.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 A short life working group has been formed to consider and take forward the revised way of working with the aim to co-produce innovative and compliant frameworks of commissioned services for Schools and Lifelong Learning.
- 7.2 Engagement with the Community and Voluntary Sector continues to explore how we can more closely align with Place Based approaches to improve outcomes for children and families (Learning Communities and Team around the Learning Communities).
- 7.3 Views and impact were and continue to be gathered from schools by the local authority in relation to the management of resources to support equity, specifically the use of Scottish Attainment Challenge funding.

- 7.4 Views of parents/carers, families, and young people continue to be gathered by schools as part of the self-evaluation process around interventions and supports delivered to children and young people experiencing poverty-related barriers.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [our-future-council-our-future-city \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/our-future-council-our-future-city)
- 8.2 [Local government in Scotland Overview 2022 \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/local-government-in-scotland-overview-2022)

9. Appendices

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