

Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths</p> 	<p>Councillor Joan Griffiths (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Glasgow Councillor Kumar Councillor Hyslop Councillor Graham Councillor Young Councillor Burgess Councillor O’Neill Councillor Cowdy Councillor Jones Councillor Davidson</p> <p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Mrs Fiona Beveridge</p> <p>Angela Campbell</p> <p>Dr May Ruhyyih Parris</p> <p>Parent Representatives Alexander Ramage secondary sector parent representative</p> <p>Sara Collins and Louise Collingwood (the role will be undertaken on a shared basis)</p>	<p>Nickey Boyle, Executive Support 0131 469 5725</p>

Updates

Background/Contact

Food Pantries Update

The food pantries project funded by Justice Services and delivered by our partner agency Cyrenians continues to go from strength to strength with 40 members signed up to the Easter Road stadium pantry and around 25 at St Brides Community Centre in Dalry. Each pantry enables members to access a range of healthy, fresh, ambient, chilled, and frozen foods at affordable prices. Both pantries operate alongside existing community provisions; a lunch club which operates from the Easter Road stadium and a 'soup and show' (where people gather to eat hot soup and watch a film) at St Brides. Both facilities are working well within their respective communities; there are no plans to expand the Justice Services funded pantries to other areas at present.

Carey Fuller, Head of Justice Services

Kinship Summer Fun Day

The Kinship Summer Fun Day is one of two kinship events for all kinship carers City of Edinburgh's Kinship Team run each year, the other being our Christmas Party. Held in the first week of the summer holidays, the Kinship Summer Fun Day is run in partnership with Edinburgh Leisure who come along to support participation in a range of outdoor games and sports. Kinship Families are invited to bring a picnic and activities are also provided for younger children including face-painting, sensory play and parachute games.

Catriona MacKenzie,
Team Leader, Kinship Assessment & Support Team

Although fewer families attended this year due to the weather, those that were there had a good time, as is reflected in the feedback. Both the Kinship Team and Edinburgh Leisure were able to make links with families we don't provide a direct service to currently, with children and young people gaining access to various additional summer activities. These include Aquadash, a Football camp and free football at Meadowbank for young people aged 11+. Families that did not have LA Active cards have been provided with these.

For kinship carers it is an opportunity to meet other people in kinship families as well as learn a bit more about the kinship service. As a team it is an event we all look forward to each year.

Feedback from participants:

1. "Hi there

Our family attended the fun day on Tuesday as always it was great fun and met some lovely people.

I was speaking to a staff member and I was recommended to apply for Edinburgh leisure passes for the kids and a pac card for us parents"

(Details were sent along with the email of family members applying for these and the Kinship Support Team will action this.)

2. "Hi,
Thank you very much for organising today.

It was lovely to catch up with everyone and get out and about in the fresh air.
We were lucky with the weather...

The rowing machine was great!

S is delighted with his Hibs football and the Go Ape vouchers will be well used
and are much appreciated.

I hope to get along to a coffee morning sometime in the new term.

I hope everyone has a good summer.

Thanks again

3 "Hi All at Kinship Care!!!
The gratitude lies with yourselves, the children had a great morning.

Even the rain didn't put them off!

Thank you all involved

Kind Regards

D & C"

Bairn's Hoose

The new Equally Safe Multi-Agency Centre (ESMAC) is now partially open in Edinburgh. The site called the Sycamore Centre involves a partnership between NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, Mid Lothian and East Lothian Councils and working with third sector colleagues. The Sycamore Centre includes a forensic suite for adults, as well as, 2 children's houses, Aspen and Rowan, where refurbishment of the interiors of the Houses is in the final stages of completion. The whole ethos of the Sycamore Centre is trauma-informed, with both adult and children's centres being designed through this lens.

The Children's houses were designed drawing on the principles of the Bairn's Hoose standards and in the knowledge of the new Scottish Child Interviewing Model (SCIM). This SCIM model puts the child at the centre with the aim of gaining their best evidence, and thus reducing the chance a child may need to give evidence on commission or in court. Aspen and Rowan have 2 interview suites each, which provide a quiet, supportive space for children and young people that can be tailored to individual needs.

The Edinburgh SCIM team comprises 6 social workers and 5 police officers who have all completed around 50 days of the National JII Training

Janet Blair, Children's
Practice Team Manager

Programme training, in the specialist task of forensic interviewing of children. The team went live on 20 February 2023 and moved into their offices in the Sycamore Centre on 19 June 2023. This means that Police and social workers are now co-located to enable greater partnership working in planning, implementing and evaluating interviews. So far, the team have planned for 160 interviews and are in the process of capturing relevant data to allow for qualitative and quantitative evaluation. A report on progress during the first 6 months will be submitted to the Child Protection Committee at end of August.

Learning Together Celebrating Success Event

On 2 June 2023, the first ever Learning Together event was organised to celebrate the practice taking place across Edinburgh in Early Years settings and Primary Schools. The in-person event also provided participants of this session’s Learning Together CLPL with the opportunity to share their practice with invited partners from Wider Achievement & Lifelong Learning, Connect, Skills Scotland and Scottish Book Trust. The event was open to practitioners working in early years settings and schools.

Marie Lyon, Quality Improvement Education Officer



CLPL participants as part of their course work undertook self-evaluation activities to create an action plan focused on improving either parental engagement, parental involvement, family learning or learning at home.

The Celebrating Success event enabled these participants to discuss their plans, it’s progress and impact in developing their current practice.

Feedback from practitioners who attended the event enjoyed the informal opportunity to learn and network with experienced practitioners and how they plan on utilising this learning in their own settings.

Early Years Change Programme

In order to achieve best value and the highest quality of service delivery, the model for provision of early learning and childcare is due to be submitted to the councils change programme to be included as one for the key portfolios for change.

Lorna French, Service Director, Education

Defibrillators in Primary Schools

A budget of £112,000 was approved in 2022-2023 for the provision of Defibrillators in all Primary Schools across The City of Edinburgh Council Estate. To date we have surveyed all Primary Schools to determine where Defibrillators are already installed. From the information gathered there are some schools who do have a defib installed, but need support with maintenance and training, therefore this will also be considered in this project. We will be working alongside our Contracted Supplier – Aero Health Care UK to look at the suitability of sites and identify areas where the need is greatest depending on the areas of the city less served with this important piece of equipment, the Supplier will also offer support with training after installations are complete. The installations will commence in September 2023 and it is hoped the project will reach completion by 31 December 2023.

Gillian Tracey,
Directorate Operations
Manager

Holiday Hub Provision

The Holiday Hub provision has supported 500 children with a disability over this academic year. The recent contract awards have allowed providers to employ more staff and reach full capacity. Families have said this provision gave them valuable support and time to spend with their other children. The provision has allowed children to take part in a holiday club which is safe, nurturing and gives them new experiences. Families have been clear that they would have struggled this summer if this provision had not been available.

Jen Grundy, Children's
Practice Team Manager

Please click on the link below to see a video of the summer provision that highlights the excellent work that has transformed the holiday provision for children with a disability.

<https://clickv.ie/w/xqRv>

Who cares? Scotland” Keeping the Promise and Building Communities that Care conference

At a recent conference, colleagues from Drylaw Children’s House, used one of the market stalls to highlight the work they are doing to ensure the Promise is embedded into everyday life at Drylaw. The market stall information was developed by the staff and young people, alongside a video of them discussing what the Promise means to them. This attracted a lot of attention including the previous javelin world record holder, Fatima Whitbread. Fatima was very interested and impressed by their work and is keen to stay connected with Drylaw around their progress embedding the Promise.



Gaelic Implementation Steering Group – Update

The Gaelic Implementation Steering Group (GIG) was reappointed by this committee in November 2022. In May 2023, the Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed in principle to transfer ownership of the GIG from the Education, Children and Families Committee to P&S. This recommendation was submitted to EC&F for approval in June, where it was continued to allow further information to be submitted on the rationale for the change.

As outlined in the June report, the main reason for the proposed change was to bring oversight in line with that of the Gaelic Language Plan, which is overseen by P&S. The remit of the GIG, as agreed by EC&F in November, is to support the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan (2018-22) and the development of future Gaelic Language Plans. However, which committee oversees it does not have any impact on the group’s powers or activities. The GIG as a working group is able to make formal recommendations to executive committees. This will either be to the Policy and Sustainability Committee or the Education, Children and Families Committee, as appropriate. This is dependent on the subject and in which committees’ remit the recommendation applies to.

Alan McDonald, Team
Manager Residential
Care (Acting)

Committee Services



