

Business Bulletin

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 8 October 2019

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Alison Dickie</p> 	<p>Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Mary Campbell Councillor Joan Griffiths Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Callum Laidlaw Councillor David Key Councillor Jason Rust Councillor Susan Webber Councillor Louise Young</p> <p>Added Members for Education Matters</p> <p>Religious Representatives Monsignor Anthony Duffy Mrs Fiona Beveridge Rabbi David Rose</p> <p>Parent Representative Alexander Ramage</p>	<p>Lesley Birrell Committee Services 0131 529 4240</p> <p>Laura Millar Service and Policy Adviser to the Convener and Vice-Convener Tel: 0131 529 4319</p>

What is Youth Talk

Youth Talk is a process that supports large numbers of young people to have a say about things in their community. This can be about how services are provided, issues that affect them or to simply let everyone know how they feel about their area, and what they think can be done to change things.

Unlike other engagement processes, Youth Talk is based on five key Stages, each providing young people with several opportunities to participate in the process, as per their preference.

These five key Stages are:

- A Flash Poll to determine levels of satisfaction with local services and facilities.
- Wider mapping and analysis with young people, of local services and support.
- “The Gathering” an event that brings young people and service providers together to further shape actions.
- Pledges are developed, and changes identified by the service providers with the involvement of young people where appropriate.
- Delivery – young people supported to co-design new services and activities or promote larger issues identified to relevant strategic/delivery groups.

The programme is 9 months into the process, and we have used different ways of engaging young people. Young people are at the heart of the process. Adults are also important too as they can then work with young people to help change things, make things better or just listen to young people.

The ‘Gathering’ event has taken place and now the real work begins in terms of ensuring what can be delivered or changes to existing services now takes place. This can also involve changing approaches or even attitudes.

With the valuable information that came out of The Gathering we are now focused on a working group of young people to help continue the developments of this process into the final stage. This will be in partnership with West Edinburgh Youth Engagement Partnership, who have helped to support the Youth Talk process.

YouthTalk was devised by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2013 and has been carried out in different parts of the city. It has been recognised by the Scottish Parliament as a model of good practice and by the Scottish Government Education Inspectorate (HMIE) as an exemplar model to engage with young people.

YouthTalk is simultaneously happening in other parts of Edinburgh and will continue across all four Localities over the next 3-5 years.

The engagement of the young people at each stage of the programme has been incredible. The number of young people that have participated provides strength to all the data collected and fully endorses why Youth Talk takes place. Importantly, it highlights that young people have a keen interest in what happens in their community. It also reflects the great work going on in pupil councils across the area and shows young people are effective decision makers. It is hoped that this partnership with pupil councils and Youth Talk continues in the years to come.

Youth Talk 2019 has confirmed some short falls in service or activity, for example, places for young people to hang out is limited. But it has also helped to highlight other areas that require attention where, without engaging young people might not be as obvious, such as health and wellbeing, feeling safe and life skills. Many of the suggestions put forward by those attending the Gathering event will not require large financial investments but will require a rethink in terms of how services are currently provided and how facilities might be more available.

Some of the YouthTalk outcomes also link with the North West Locality Improvement Plan and other plans e.g. Edinburgh's Children and Young People's Service Plan, this is useful as some key professionals may be aware of some of the issues raised which could help get key people involved and help get things moving.

The pledges and how they are developed over the next year or so will determine the success of this Youth Talk process. It is now up to both "key" adults and young people to commit to making some of these ideas come to life. These are exciting times for our areas, and there is confidence that some meaningful outcomes will be achieved.

School Dinner Lunch

The Lord Provost agreed for a school dinner lunch to be served as a meal of choice on Thursday at the City of Edinburgh Council meeting on the 19 September.

Councillors were able to choose from home-made vegetable soup, sizzling piri piri chicken with vegetable rice, or red pesto rainbow pasta with steamed broccoli followed by seasonal fruit and yogurt.

Last year we had school catering staff prepare and serve the food and this year it was done by eight students from Castlebrae Community High School.

These pupils are all on a Skills for Work Hospitality course and four of them were in the kitchen preparing the lunch whilst the rest was upstairs setting up the room for lunch.

There was an opportunity for the Councillors to speak to the students during the lunch. The food that was served is available on our school menus in our primary schools.

The Council's catering service freshly cooks around 18,500 hot meals every day to over 90 schools across the city delivered from 54 production kitchens by over 500 dedicated staff.

The service is committed to sourcing food from Scotland and the UK and use local suppliers for meat, vegetables and milk. With all fish coming from sustainable sources, all eggs served are free range and meat from QMS or Red Tractor accredited farms.

Five years ago the Council became the first local authority in Scotland to achieve the Bronze Catering Mark Award across all its primary, secondary and special schools and in 2016 two pilot schools, Currie High and Buckstone Primary, gained the Silver Catering Mark Award.

Leith Academy's S4 Prince's Trust Achievement

Pupils in Leith Academy's S4 Prince's Trust Achieve in-school programme have been awarded a Prince's Trust Development Award to support them in establishing their own enterprise project. The pupils have established a fully equipped milkshake bar – Mooshakez - at Leith Academy, that will provide hospitality services as a project aimed at improving pupils' employability.

Through the project, pupils will have the opportunity to receive accreditation for awards and qualifications including the REHIS Elementary Food and Hygiene Certificate and Prince's Trust Scottish Personal Development qualifications at Level 5.

By establishing Mooshakez, pupils have regular opportunity to put their skills in to practice and develop the employability skills required for the pupils to gain positive and sustained destinations post-school.

Leith Academy is the first school in Edinburgh to receive this award, and the official launch took place on Thursday 5 September. Mooshakez will operate as normal from 10:30-10:50am. This was followed by the formal launch, which included short presentations from school staff and representatives from the Prince's Trust, a ribbon cutting ceremony, cheque presentation and official photographs. This was then followed by a sampling of the products.

Annual Green Pencil Launch

The annual Green Pencil Launch event was with P6 pupils from Davidson Mains PS and children's author Vivian French on the 29 August at Blackhall Library.

The Green Pencil Award is our annual environmentally-themed creative writing competition. It is open to all P4 to S3-aged children and young people in Edinburgh.

There has been a lot of attention given recently to climate change and its effects on the natural environment, so this year our theme is 'Going, going, gone: Scotland's wildlife in danger?'

Scotland is home to a diverse range of wildlife, on the coast and in the countryside. Not all wild Scottish animals are endangered, but some such as the pine marten and the red squirrel are at particular risk.

We want to encourage children and young people to write imaginatively about this wildlife and their feelings about it. This could be by writing about:

- a particular species of animal
- a time when they have seen a wild animal at close quarters
- an animal or bird that has a special connection to the writer.

The golden eagle, wildcat, bottle-nosed dolphin, red squirrel and pine marten are all protected species, but you can write about the capercaillie, otter, mountain hare, orca, puffin, or even the damselfly or honey bee!

The possibilities for the entries are endless:

- haiku
- prose
- poetry
- imaginative tale
- a creative kenning
- ballad
- a story inspired by a visit or holiday.

The writing has to be the author's own work and is no longer than one side of A4 paper.

The closing date is 11 October 2019.

The awards ceremony is at Central Library on 21 November 2019.

Dog Friendly Thursdays in Libraries



Central, Stockbridge and Oxfangs Libraries will be introducing Dog Friendly Thursdays from Thursday 3 October. Customers will be welcome to bring their well-behaved dogs into those libraries.

There are many reasons for making these libraries Dog Friendly on Thursdays.

- People won't have to worry about leaving their dog in the car or tied up outside.
- This will encourage people to use libraries who may not have done so previously
- This acknowledges the role that dogs play in providing support and companionship and the help they give to some people in social situations
- Dogs are a great conversation starter and this will be great for customers who wish and need some social contact
- This makes our libraries a friendly place to visit

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-23

Culture and Communities Committee have requested an update on the work on creating a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-23 for it's Committee meeting on the 12 November 2019. The report will provide the opportunity to consider a number of issues relating to access of Council owned sports facilities including the possible transfer of these assets to third party organisations.

There are a number of current expressions of interest in asset transfers but the process is a lengthy one and requires due diligence from both the applicant and Council officers. A key aspect of the new strategy will be the action undertaken to find new ways of working with sport clubs and organisation to maximise the access to Council owned sports facilities whilst taking account of the financial pressures facing all partners.