

MINUTE
of
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 9 May 2019.

Present:

Councillor Paul O’Kane (Chair)
Councillor Colm Merrick (Vice Chair)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Charlie Gilbert

Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Gordon Wallace
Dr Frank Angell
Mr Des Morris

Councillor O’Kane in the Chair

Attending:

Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services (Provision and Resources); Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance); Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Catherine Dillon-Ruddy, Head Teacher, Our Lady of the Missions Primary School.

Apologies:

Ms Dorothy Graham and Ms Mary McIntyre.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

883. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS PRIMARY SCHOOL

884. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education informing members of the outstanding report by Education Scotland following their inspection of Our Lady of the Missions Primary School. A copy of the inspection report accompanied the report.

The Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance) explained that in assessing the two quality indicators, Education Scotland had judged one indicator to be excellent and one to be very good. Key strengths were highlighted, including highly

articulate, confident and ambitious children; close cluster working and careful tracking of children's progress; highly effective leadership; very high levels of attainment in literacy, numeracy and science; and a focus on high quality learning and teaching.

He went on to explain that this was an outstanding report with the judgements made by Education Scotland being very close to the department's evaluation of the quality of provision. The department was particularly pleased that the leadership of the Head Teacher and senior management team had been noted in the letter to parents/carers as one of the key strengths.

The inspection team had agreed two areas for improvement with the school and the department. However, given that the school had been judged to be excellent in one of the indicators assessed and very good in the other, there was no need for an additional action plan to address the areas for improvement. The school would continue to use the results of its own self-evaluation to identify priorities for improvement which would be published in its annual standards and quality report and school plan.

Education Scotland would make no further reports in connection with the inspection of Our Lady of the Missions Primary School and the department recommended that the school be accredited for its achievements. This would mean that the authority would not carry out any formal quality assurance activities in Our Lady of the Missions Primary School for a period of 3 years from the date of publication of the report.

Commenting on a concern raised regarding questionnaire feedback from parents and pupils, the Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance) reassured members that the content of questionnaires was discussed in full during the inspection process and would be dealt with as appropriate.

Ms Dillon-Ruddy, Head Teacher, explained that she was extremely proud of the report, which had been achieved through the hard work and commitment of everyone involved with the school. She praised strong cluster working and thanked the Education Department Directorate for their continued support.

Having heard Councillor O'Kane, on behalf of the committee, commend all those involved in achieving an excellent report, the committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the content of the Education Scotland report on Our Lady of the Missions Primary School; and
- (b) to commend the school's achievements by awarding it accreditation from May 2019 until May 2022.

S1 INTAKE AT ST. NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL SESSION 2019-20

885. The committee considered a report by the Director of Education advising of arrangements deemed to be necessary to accommodate the secondary 1 (S1) intake at St. Ninian's High School for school session 2019-20.

The report explained that the current policy restricted the S1 intake to 300 places and additional teaching accommodation would be available from session 2021-22. However, applications from the catchment for August 2019 exceeded the available places and a number of pupils, including baptised Roman Catholic children, would not be able to be accommodated. Further information was provided on the placement and ballot process and a previous temporary increase to meet the needs of the then catchment area. Taking account of this information, and following consultation with the head teacher, school

timetabler and the Director of Education, it was agreed that the best way forward for school session 2019/20 would be for the S1 intake to be temporarily increased to accommodate all associated primary school pupils.

In response to questions, the Head of Education Services (Provision and Resources) advised that the school was very well led with an efficient timetable and would be able to cope with a temporary increase to the S1 intake.

The committee agreed:-

- (a) the special circumstances at St. Ninian's High School; and
- (b) to note that the S1 intake would be temporarily increased to 320 places for school session 2019-20 in advance of the planned accommodation being established at the school for 2021-22 to temporarily increase the school's capacity.

PROGRESS OF EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

886. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 14 June 2018 (Page 433, Item 466 refers), when progress in relation to the expansion planning for 1140 hours of free Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) for August 2020 was noted, the committee considered a report by the Director of Education providing an update on the progress of the expansion of ELC entitlement to 1140 hours per year for every 3 and 4 year-old child and eligible 2 year-old children by August 2020.

By way of background, the report referred to the Scottish Government's vision to expand ELC provision as outlined above, to be underpinned by the key principles of Quality, Flexibility, Accessibility and Affordability. It explained the steps that had been taken locally to deliver the vision including the establishment of an ELC Expansion Board which reported to the Council's Corporate Management Team, the Board having 4 workstreams with specific remits; Quality; Workforce; Expansion Plan and Service Models; and Provision and Resources.

Thereafter, the report summarised progress across the 4 workstreams and proposed plans moving forward. With regard to the Workforce workstream, it was reported that the first cohort of HNC students participating in the HNC in Childhood Practice with West College Scotland had completed their studies and 14 out of the 19 graduates had secured Child Development Officer posts within East Renfrewshire Council. A second cohort would graduate in May 2019 and a third cohort was underway. Further information was provided regarding the Delivery Models workstream highlighting that the East Renfrewshire Expansion Plan had previously outlined an increase to funded providers from £3.50 per hour to £5.50 from August 2019 onwards. However, a significant shortfall in revenue funding had merited a recalculation of the rate and, taking account of a number of factors, it was proposed that a rate of £5.00 per hour would be applied. Further information would be provided in due course to allow further consideration of hourly rates beyond August 2020. It was further reported that the Scottish Government had released additional "Realising Change" funds to support local authorities in the implementation of the expansion and East Renfrewshire had been awarded a total of £114,320. Guidance suggested that the grant should be used to support local authority and funded providers to transition to 1140 hours and a plan was submitted to the Scottish Government on 29 March with the spending proposal for East Renfrewshire.

With regard to the Provision and Resources workstream, it was explained that the 8-year Capital Plan approved at Council in February 2019 reflected the latest cost estimates for the delivery of the new and extended early years facilities and additional Scottish Government funding of £11.7million had been received towards the expansion over the period of the capital plan. This would include 2 new-build family centres on the sites of Crookfur and Overlee Pavilions; new-build larger replacements for Busby and Eaglesham Primary School nursery classes; and a new-build larger replacement for Glenwood Family Centre. In addition to new and extended facilities, all existing Early Learning and Childcare Centres had been reviewed and a programme of minor works would be taken forward.

In response to comments, the Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity) advised that the funded sector had previously raised concerns about sustainability but she assured members that East Renfrewshire Council was working closely with the sector to overcome any concerns raised and the increased hourly rate for funded suppliers should assist with their sustainability.

The committee:-

- (a) noted the progress regarding East Renfrewshire's expansion planning for 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare for August 2020;
- (b) noted that Crookfur Nursery Class would be relocated to the new facilities at the site of Crookfur Pavilion, operating under the existing management of Crookfur Primary and be known as Crookfur Family Centre from August 2020; and
- (c) approved the increase in the hourly rate for funded providers.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2016-18 – YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT

887. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 17 November 2016 (Page 2113, Item 2271 refers), when the content of the Corporate Parenting Plan 2016-18 was noted, the committee considered a report by the Director of Education providing Year 2 Progress on the Corporate Parenting Plan for the period 2016-18.

The report referred to the role of Community Planning Partners as “corporate parents” providing progress on work which had taken place over the previous two years to deliver the Corporate Parenting Plan. It was reported that looked after children and young people constituted 0.5% of the total children's population of the area and the Corporate Parenting Plan had been developed within the context of the *Getting it Right for Every Child* programme and the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators framework. A number of key improvements had made been including in relation to permanence; raising attainment; and health and wellbeing, with a significant increase being recorded in the performance of looked after children and young people in baseline assessments in numeracy and literacy and with regard to development milestones. Although a number of key improvements had been made to the lives of looked after children and young people, it was noted that there had also been some challenging areas including a slight reduction in attendance rates in school session 2016-17 when compared to the previous year, and less satisfactory figures relating to positive school leaver destinations.

Councillor O’Kane referred to the role that Elected Members had as corporate parents, advising that he attended meetings of the Champions Board where young people had expressed a desire to have a system in place based on love and care, and recognised that educational outcomes were extremely important. Members referred to the collaborative

work which was ongoing across council departments and with other partners in this area, which had led to a number of positive benefits and outcomes for looked after children and young people in recent years.

The committee:-

- (a) acknowledged the progress made in delivering improved outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers;
- (b) noted the areas of challenge and potential solutions; and
- (c) directed the East Renfrewshire Corporate Parenting family, listed in appendix 4 of the report, to continue to move forward and work collaboratively to agree future priorities for the coming years.

CHAIR

