

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 21 June 2017.**

**Present:**

Councillor Paul O’Kane (Chair)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Colm Merrick (Vice Chair)	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Dr Frank Angell
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Ms Dorothy Graham
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Mr Des Morris

Councillor O’Kane in the Chair

**Attending:**

Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; 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 Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Paul Aitken, Caroline Bamforth and Ms Mary McIntyre.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**22.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**EAST RENFREWSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES PLAN 2017-20**

**23.** The committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer, presenting for consideration *Getting it Right for You*, the East Renfrewshire Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2017-2020, a copy of which accompanied the report.

The report referred to the obligations placed on local authorities, in conjunction with their relevant health board, to jointly prepare a 3-year Children’s Services Plan for the local authority area, as well as the requirement on the local authority and health board to jointly publish an annual report detailing how the provision of children’s services and related services in the area had been provided in accordance with the plan. It was noted that the start of the first 3 –year period had been determined by Ministerial Order as 1 April 2017.

Referring to the plan, the report explained that in accordance with the statutory guidance, the plan had been framed within the national *Getting it Right for Every Child* agenda and in particular the Wellbeing Indicators. This ensured outcomes and success indicators were linked to the Community Plan and the developing Local Outcome Improvement Plan, amongst others.

Having set out the Wellbeing Indicators, the report provided details of the consultation and partnership working that had taken place in the development of the plan. In particular, the overarching role of the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership was outlined.

The report concluded by confirming that the purpose of the plan was to set out the vision for East Renfrewshire's children, young people and their families, and demonstrate the commitment to achieve the best possible outcomes for them.

In response to comments from Councillor Swift on the adoption of the Named Person Service by health visitors, Mrs Collins explained that the relevant parts of the legislation in respect of this area had now been passed, and confirmed that the authority would always work within the terms of any legislative requirements.

Following further discussion in the course of which in response to Councillor Gilbert how community involvement was being taken forward, and Councillor Buchanan emphasised that the key outcome was about ensuring equality of opportunity for all children and young people, the committee:-

- (a) acknowledged the new legislative requirements; and
- (b) noted the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2017-2020 and that the plan would be considered by the Integration Joint Board and the Council.

## **GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION – OUTCOME OF ASSESSMENT REQUEST**

**24.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education providing information on the outcome of a request for an assessment of the demand for Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) in East Renfrewshire.

By way of background, the report explained the way in which GMPE was delivered and that at present although there was no GMPE provision in East Renfrewshire families who were granted placing requests to neighbouring authorities were supported through the provision of transport.

The report referred to legislative provisions entitling parents to request GMPE from their local education authority and to statutory guidance which came into force on 1 February 2017 which set out the process for assessing demand on receipt of a request for GMPE.

Thereafter the report explained that an assessment request had been received from a parent resident in East Renfrewshire, but that having undertaken the required assessment process it was established that the threshold of five preschool children in any one year group was not met. In view of this it had been considered that there was not a potential need for GMPE in the assessment area and that no further action would be taken. Parents whose details had been provided as part of the initial request had been notified of the outcome and that support through the provision of transport would continue to be provided if they chose to make and were granted placing requests to schools in neighbouring authorities which provided GMPE.

Having heard Councillor Lafferty welcome the continuing commitments to support families and to review arrangements for Gaelic education in future, the committee noted the report.

## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ANNUAL REPORT**

**25.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education reporting on the steps taken to develop Early Learning and Childcare services and seeking approval for the next steps as outlined in the report.

The report referred to the contribution made by Early Learning and Childcare services to the Single Outcome Agreement and to the continuing focus on early years by both national and local government. In particular the report referred to the consultation paper published in 2016 *A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland*, which along with a subsequent report and action plan outlined the elements required to deliver the planned expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) almost doubling provision from 600 hours to 1,140 hours by 2020, with the system of ELC being built on the guiding principles of quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability in order to address attainment and inequality gaps across the country.

Having highlighted the importance of the provision of high quality ELC the report provided detailed statistical information in relation to both the quality of provision and the quality of the early years workforce as well as setting out the next steps in each area. In addition, the report provided information on the work being taken forward to ensure accessibility to services across the entire East Renfrewshire area referring to the decision taken by the Council to reduce by 50% from August 2017 the hourly cost of wraparound care.

Responding to comments from Councillor Swift on the potential future variation in child numbers, the potential for overprovision of local authority facilities in the future, and the need to work with partners to help address the additional requirements, officers explained that the Council did work closely with partners in relation to levels of provision and was keen to provide a blended approach to service provision enabling parents to access the service that best suited their needs.

Following discussion the committee:-

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the next steps as set out in the report.

## **DRAFT LITERACY STRATEGY**

**26.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval for a draft Literacy Strategy, a copy of which accompanied the report.

Having referred to the number of well-established policy frameworks in place across the country through which action to improve literacy was focused, and to the Council's commitment to improve the lives of local people, the report explained that the Council's 5 capabilities; prevention; community engagement; data, evidence and benchmarking; modernising how we work; and digital were embedded in the draft Strategy. The report further explained that the draft Strategy would ensure that learners had the necessary literary skills to help them be successful in the workplace.

Commenting further on the Strategy, the report explained that it linked to the Council's current Single Outcome Agreement, contributing in particular to Strategic Outcomes 1 and 2. Details of those areas the strategy aimed to improve were outlined and it was explained that the strategy would build on existing good practice ensuring literacy had a central and continuing focus in education.

Details of how the strategy would be monitored were outlined, it being noted that as well as ongoing monitoring within the department progress would be reported to the committee through yearly presentations on attainment and through Standards and Quality reports.

The consultation that took place as part of the development of the strategy was also outlined, together with the way in it would be funded.

In response to comments, Dr Ratter provided examples of some of the actions being taken to close the attainment gap between areas with differing levels of deprivation. He also emphasised that the aim of the strategy was not only to reduce this gap but to improve outcomes for pupils of all levels and abilities.

In this regard the Director referred to the Early Learning and Childcare Annual report considered earlier which showed that in addition to attainment gaps closing, attainment at all levels was increasing.

Following discussion the committee:-

- (a) approved the draft Literacy Strategy; and
- (b) instructed the Director to bring reports to future meetings on the impact of its implementation.

## **DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE IN EAST RENFREWSHIRE - PROGRESS**

**27.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education providing an update on progress made with Developing the Young Workforce in East Renfrewshire. A copy of the progress summary for the period 2015-2017 together with an updated 2017-20 Implementation Plan accompanied the report.

Having outlined the background to the production of the local Developing the Young workforce (DYW) Implementation Plan, approved by the Education Committee in August 2015, the report explained that the summary that accompanied the report set out the improvements that had been made within East Renfrewshire across schools, colleges and employers to prepare young people for their working lives with evidence of progress key achievements and next steps being set out under 4 key themes; schools; colleges; apprenticeships; and employers.

The report also drew attention to a number of the key highlights from the progress report including that East Renfrewshire had the highest level of participation in the national data hub in 2016 at 96.45% the national average being 90.4% and that 96.6% of East Renfrewshire school leavers in 2015-16 were in a positive destination, the highest percentage to date.

Finally the report explained that to reflect the work that had taken place and areas for further improvement the DYW Implementation Plan had been reviewed and updated.

Councillor Lafferty having welcomed both the increase in positive outcomes and that positive outcomes were not only about further education, and Councillor Buchanan having referred in particular to the 100% retention rate after 1 year of foundation apprenticeships, the committee:-

- (a) noted the Developing the Young Workforce in East Renfrewshire Progress Report; and
- (b) approved the updated 2017-2020 draft Implementation Plan.

### **SPRINGHILL AND AUCHENBACK PRIMARY SCHOOL – NAME CHANGE**

**28.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 30 March 2017, when the Director had advised that a report on the possibility of changing the name of Springhill and Auchenback Primary School would be submitted to a future meeting, the committee considered a report providing details of the consultation exercise that had taken place and seeking approval for a change in the name of the school.

The report explained that responses to the consultation exercise had shown that 80% of pupils, 65% of parents and 100% of staff preferred alternative names to the existing name.

The consultation had identified 3 names for the consideration of the committee, these being Barrhead Primary School, Hillview Primary School and Springhill Primary School, with Hillview Primary School being the preferred option.

The report further explained that a phased approach to changing the school uniform to reflect the new name would be taken, with the timeline to be the subject of consultation with parents and pupils. This would allow children and parents to be involved in the design and to meet the costs of new clothing in a staged and more affordable manner.

Following discussion the committee agreed to change the name of the school to Hillview Primary School.

CHAIR

