

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Gannochy Suite, First Floor, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors B Band, G Walker, H Anderson (substitute for D Pover), C Gillies, K Howie, G Laing, E Maclachlan, A Munro, M Roberts (substitute for C Shiers), L Simpson, A Stewart, B Vaughan and W Wilson; Mrs H Bridge, Mrs P Giles, Mrs A McAuley and Mrs M McFarlane.

In attendance: J Fyffe, Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform), S Devlin, Director (Education and Children's Services), B Atkinson, Director (Social Work); G Boland, J Chiles, J Clow, K Francis, F Graham, F Mackay, P McAvoy, J Pepper, L Richards, K Robertson and S Younie (all Education and Children's Services); C Flynn, C Irons, A O'Brien and C Vaskevicius (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies for absence: Councillors D Pover and C Shiers; P Duncan and I Jackson

Councillor B Band, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion on Arts. 707-710, 712-713, 715-716 and 720-722 and the Vice Convener led discussion on Arts. 711, 714 and 717-719.

707. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence and substitutes were noted as above.

The Convener also welcomed Sheena Devlin to the meeting in her new role of Director (Education and Children's Services).

708. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Instrumental Music Service Review

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener advised that the report on the Instrumental Music Service Review which was due to be submitted to this Committee will now be submitted to the meeting on 27 January 2016.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2015

709. MINUTES

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 26 August 2015 (Arts. 529 - 538) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Attendance Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 21 May 2015 was submitted and noted. *(Appendix I)*

(iii) School Estate Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the School Estate Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 4 June 2015 was submitted and noted. *(Appendix II)*

(iv) Attendance Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 3 September 2015 was submitted and noted. *(Appendix II)*

(v) Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff

The minute of meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 16 June 2015 was submitted and noted. *(Appendix IV)*

710. PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

(i) Minute of meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group

The minute of meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group of 29 May 2015 was submitted and noted.

(ii) Briefing Note by Executive Lead Officer

There was submitted and noted a joint briefing note by the Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) and Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) providing an update on the activities of the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Outcome Delivery Group.

(iii) Children, Young People and Families Partnership Briefing Note

There was submitted and noted a briefing note by the Director (Social Work) providing an update on the activities of the Perth and Kinross Community Planning – Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP) since the last meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 26 August 2015.

711. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2015

There was submitted a joint report by the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and Director (Social Work) (15/505) reviewing the performance of Education and Children's Services against its Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the Education and Children's Services Six Month Performance Summary 1 April to 30 September 2015, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 15/505, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 15/505 would be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2015.

712. ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS 2015

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/506) (1) presenting a summary analysis of pupil attainment for academic session 2014/15 in Perth and Kinross, specifically in relation to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) progress with learning and achievement in P4, P7 and S3, and attainment at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7 in secondary years S4, S5 and S6, and (2) setting out measures to further improve attainment for all Perth and Kinross pupils.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of report 15/506, be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 15/506 would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2015 for scrutiny and comment be noted.
- (iii) It be agreed that information on all individual schools be circulated to all Councillors.

713. DEVOLVED SCHOOL MANAGEMENT (DSM) REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/507) detailing the proposed changes to the Perth and Kinross Devolved School Management (DSM) Scheme as a result of reviewing the current scheme in light of revised national guidelines.

Resolved:

- (i) The outcome from the self-evaluation toolkit shown in Appendix 1 to Report 15/507, be noted.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2015

- (ii) The revised Perth and Kinross DSM scheme as shown in Appendix 2 to Report 15/507 be approved.
- (iii) The proposal for Property Services to retain the budget and expenditure for repairs and maintenance be approved.
- (iv) The implementation process as outlined in paragraph 2.5 of Report 15/507, be approved.
- (v) A regular ongoing review of the Perth and Kinross DSM scheme and associated guidelines be agreed.
- (vi) Training in DSM procedures to be offered to Elected Members as part of their Development Programme and also to be offered to non-elected members.

714. UPDATE REPORT ON ATTENDANCE RECORDING, MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/508) providing an update on the use of the Attendance Recording, Management Guidance and Operational Procedures, approved at Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2013 (Report 13/386 refers), in schools across Perth and Kinross and (2) incorporating the additional information requested at the Lifelong Learning Committee in January 2015.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposed enhancement to the Scrutiny arrangements of the Attendance Recording, Management Guidance and Operational Procedures in schools outlined in section 2.2 of Report 15/508, be approved.
- (ii) The proposal that the Lifelong Learning Committee and the Lifelong Learning Executive Sub-Committee receive an annual report which notes termly and annual attendance figures in schools, gives an account of steps taken to further improve attendance rates and provides detail of the cases selected by the Heads of Service be approved.
- (iii) The proposed clarifications to the Attendance Recording, Management Guidance and Operational Procedures outlined in paragraph 2.3 of Report 15/508 be approved.
- (iv) The maintenance of the Attendance Sub-Committee in its current form be approved.

715. UPDATE REPORT ON KINSHIP CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director (Social Work) (15/509) (1) informing the committee of the current position in relation to Approved Kinship Carers, outlining developments in national policy and raised expectations in relation to the financial support for looked after children and young people in kinship care and (2) providing an update on the impact of the decision to remove the provision of financial allowances to informal Kinship Carers.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals to secure continuous improvement in the assessment, approval and review of Approved Kinship Carers be noted.
- (ii) Changes to the provision of financial allowances to Approved Kinship Carers to include an additional four week holiday allowance and an increase to compensate for the loss of Child Benefit from 1 October 2015 be approved.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2015

- (iii) The changes to the allowances paid to previously Approved Kinship Carers be approved and it be agreed to implement the new rate subject to an individual assessment from 1 October 2015.
- (iv) A revised Kinship and Fostering Allowances Policy be approved for publication by January 2016.

716. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINUING CARE (PART 11)

There was submitted a report by the Director (Social Work) (15/510) setting out detailed financial implications of continuing care under Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the proposals for funding continuing care placements. It was noted the report should have stated up to £420 in paragraph 2.4.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress in relation to implementation of the duties of Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 be noted.
- (ii) The significant risk of a substantial shortfall in Government funding to meet the legal duties under Part 11 of the Children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014 be noted.
- (iii) The financial proposal in relation to supporting foster carers to provide continuing care through the payment of allowances equivalent to that of adult placement rates be noted.
- (iv) It be noted that individual negotiation would take place with the providers of external placements in order to assist young people to exercise their right to choose continuing care.

717. MEASURING IMPACT – EVIDENCE2SUCCESS/EARLY YEARS COLLABORATIVE

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/511) providing the committee with a summary of the impact of Evidence2Success and the Early Years Collaborative on improving the priority outcomes for children and young people identified following the Evidence2Success surveys in 2013.

Resolved:

- (i) The impact of Evidence2Success and the early years collaborative to date be noted.
- (ii) A further report be submitted to Committee within twelve months outlining progress in delivery of the next steps actions detailed in Report 15/511.
- (iii) The external evaluation of the process of implementation of Evidence2Success to date be submitted to a future meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

718. GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC) IN PERTH AND KINROSS: WELLBEING SURVEY

There was submitted a report by the Director (Social Work) (15/512) setting out the key findings from a survey of staff in Health, Education and Social Work who

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2015

will take on the roles and responsibilities of Named Persons and Lead Professionals from August 2016 as part of the new duties under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Resolved:

- (i) The findings of the Wellbeing Survey, the evidence of the positive impact of GIRFEC in Perth and Kinross and the proposal to use the survey findings to inform plans for staff development and action plans to fully implement GIRFEC be noted.
- (ii) The proposal to repeat the Wellbeing Survey with staff working in the Third Sector in collaboration with a range of voluntary organisations be noted.

719. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS AND SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS 2016/2017 AND 2017/2018

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/513) requesting the Committee approve the scheme of dates for School Terms and Holidays for session 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

Resolved:

- (i) The draft schemes as attached to Report 15/513 for school terms and holidays for sessions 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 be approved.
- (ii) The proposals detailed in Report 15/513 for school closure days for in-service and occasional holidays; and the proposals for additional closure days for schools where necessary be approved.

720. PROPOSALS FOR STRALOCH AND STRUAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/514) seeking approval to review and update the options appraisals for Straloch Primary School and Struan Primary School regarding future proposals for both schools.

Resolved:

- (i) The Options Appraisals for Straloch Primary School and Struan Primary School to be reviewed and updated.
- (ii) The Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to Committee on the findings and future proposals for Straloch Primary School and Struan Primary School in March 2016.

721. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN PERTH

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/515) seeking approval to (1) establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth from August 2019 and (2) the arrangements to establish a new catchment area for the school and transfer arrangements for primary pupils.

Resolved:

- (i) The establishment of a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth from August 2019 be approved.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2015

- (ii) The arrangements to establish a new catchment area for the school and transfer arrangements for primary pupils outlined in Appendix A to Report 15/515, be approved.

722. SECURING THE FUTURE FOR CULTURE AND SPORT: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR CULTURE AND SPORT 2016-2021

The item be deferred to the Lifelong Learning Committee on 27 January 2016.

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