

## **EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Minute of Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Hay Room, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors B Band, C Gillies, B Vaughan, G Walker, L Simpson (substituting for Councillor W Wilson) and Mrs H Bridge.

In Attendance: P McAvoy, J Clow, J Chiles, P Davison, D Gillespie (Almondbank House), F Graham, J McCarroll (Wellbank House); C Murrie, L Richards and S Gordon, Headteacher, Aberuthven Primary School (all Education and Children's Services); L Brown (Chief Executive's Service).

Apology for Absence: Councillor W Wilson.

Councillor B Band, Convener, Presiding.

### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An apology for absence was noted as above.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **(i) Executive Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 2 September 2015 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

#### **(ii) Executive Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 7 October 2015 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### **4. STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES/DAY CARE OF CHILDREN**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/546) setting out the key findings following inspections of pre-school centres and schools undertaken by Education Scotland (formerly known as Her

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Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI)) and, by exception, Care Inspectorate inspections on the day care of children since the meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee on 2 September 2015.

In response to a question from Councillor Vaughan regarding the information provided within the performance tables in Report 15/546, P Davison advised that he would revisit how this data is presented with a view to developing more meaningful information for inclusion within future reports.

Councillor Vaughan and Mrs Bridge acknowledged the support offered to individual schools through the Extended Learning and Achievement Visits (ELAV) but suggested that challenge was equally important. In responding P McAvoy advised that it would not be possible to reach a conclusion or judgement without asking challenging questions when undertaking these visits. The recommendations contained within the ELAV report helped the school to take forward its improvement agenda. Quality Improvement Officers worked with staff in the school to identify what support could be provided to assist with that improvement.

Councillor Vaughan referred to the report on the inspection of Aberuthven Primary School which had been carried out by Education Scotland and enquired how the school is developing children's skills in literacy and numeracy for those children experiencing difficulties. In response S Gordon, Headteacher, reported that a review of the young person is undertaken to identify any barriers with some children requiring support from two or three agencies. F Graham, Quality Improvement Officer, added that there are some challenges across local authorities in how to support smaller schools in relation to breadth of experience and knowledge. Perth and Kinross Council, however, have developed a more consultative approach and on-line training.

In responding to a question from Councillor Simpson regarding how Aberuthven Primary School work with pupils on raising attainment, in particular writing skills, S Gordon reported that tracking of children's writing is undertaken four times per annum. Each piece of work is marked using the "write to the top" criteria and comparisons are made in the following year.

**Resolved:**

Having heard the Headteacher and relevant officers on the key findings of the inspections, and following consideration and questions from the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that the following report, attached in Appendices 1a to 1c of Report 15/546, be noted:

- (i) Education Scotland Inspection Summary, Aberuthven Primary School (Appendix 1a)  
Education Scotland Inspection Letter, Aberuthven Primary School (Appendix 1b)  
Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report April 2012, Aberuthven Primary School (Appendix 1c)

## **5. INSPECTIONS OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BY THE CARE INSPECTORATE**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (15/547) setting out the key findings and areas for improvement following announced (short notice) inspections of Fostering Services and Adoption Services in July 2015 and an unannounced inspection of Wellbank House, Perth in May 2015 carried out by the Care Inspectorate.

Councillor Gillies enquired if the Adoption Service considered the wider family when placing a child. In response C Murrie advised that the Council had a legal responsibility to do so before a child was referred to the Permanence Team. She confirmed that a steady flow of enquiries for adoption are received.

### **Resolved:**

Having heard the relevant officers report on the main points for action and improvement, and following consideration and questions from the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that the Care Inspectorate Inspection Reports, appended to Report 15/547 on the Fostering Services, the Adoption Services and Wellbank House, Perth be noted.

D GILLESPIE, J McCARROL, C MURRIE AND L RICHARDS LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

## **6. CLOSING THE ATTAINMENT GAP**

The Executive Sub-Committee received a presentation from Paul Davison, Corporate Research and Information Manager, Education and Children's Services on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN). P Davison reported that these tools are used to understand and measure attainment and the gap which arises for those of different backgrounds in society and how the data is used to analyse performance in numeracy and literacy in Perth and Kinross.

Councillor Vaughan enquired how deprivation is identified in rural areas given there can be considerable differences in circumstances within a rural postcode. In responding P Davison reported that deprivation was difficult to identify in very rural areas because of the low numbers involved.

P McAvoy reported that all secondary school headteachers have SIMD profiles and if asked would say that they have pupils in deprivation within their school which are not identified using the SIMD tool. ACORN provided more helpful information and when analysed was more useful for the closing the gap agenda to reduce inequality in educational outcomes and address disadvantage and improve life chances for children and young people. Headteachers in primary schools also believed that ACORN offered a much better description of their understanding of the pupils within their school. He advised that a pilot is currently underway using the ACORN and SIMD data to assess and track progress in literacy and numeracy.

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**Resolved:**

- (i) A briefing paper on closing the attainment gap be circulated to the Sub-Committee for information.
- (ii) It be noted that a report on raising attainment for all will be presented to a future meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

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