

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 27 April 2016 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors B Band, G Walker, C Gillies, B Vaughan, W Wilson and Mrs H Bridge.

In Attendance: P McAvoy, J Chiles, R Jay, S Johnston, D Macleod, J Pepper, L Richards, K Robertson and C Williamson (all Education and Children's Services); N Wilson, Acting Headteacher, Viewlands Primary School; S Hendry and L Brown (both Chief Executive's Service).

Councillor B Band, Convener, Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 25 November 2015 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

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

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (16/191), setting out the key findings following inspections of pre-school centres and schools undertaken by Education Scotland (formerly known as 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 25 November 2015.

In referring to Report 16/191 Councillor Vaughan noted only 2 inspections of Perth and Kinross Primary schools had been undertaken and reported on during academic session 2015/16 and that no secondary schools had been inspected during the same period. She asked if consideration had been given to new ways of presenting statistical performance information in future reports. In responding J Chiles advised that he would review how this data is presented to see what other information might be included within the Overviews in future reports.

Councillors Band and Vaughan found the in depth analysis which had been provided on “meeting learners needs” in relation to Errol Primary School and Nursery Class report very helpful, Appendix 3a to Report 16/191 refers . Councillor Vaughan suggested that the Sub-Committee receive a report back on that aspect of the school’s work in 12 months’ time.

In referring to the joint inspection report on the ABC Day Nursery in Appendix 2a to Report 16/191, Councillor Vaughan enquired if Education and Children’s Services (ECS) had a responsibility to ensure that any private nursery who had entered into a contract with the Council complied with recruitment procedures and practice guidance. In responding the Head of Education – Early Years and Primary confirmed that ECS monitored arrangements to ensure recruitment procedures did comply with best practice and appropriate regulations. Joint inspection reports formed part of the monitoring process together with the monitoring of contracts.

In referring to the joint follow-up report by Education Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council in relation to Blairgowrie High School, Appendix 5a to Report 16/191 refers, Councillor Vaughan expressed disappointment that the Learning, Leadership and Achievement weaknesses which had been identified within an earlier inspection report on the school had not been challenged at an earlier date and asked what was being done to improve matters and ensure this was not repeated in another Perth and Kinross Council school.

In responding the Head of Education – Secondary and Inclusion reported that the concerns raised in the original inspection report had related to a lack of engagement and implementation by the school of Curriculum for Excellence and meeting learners needs. The follow-up report on the school had been prepared to show a pathway of improvement. Attainment results for S4 pupils at the school were the best ever. The Headteacher and her team showed a commitment to improving the school to ensure that young people achieved to the best of their ability. The curriculum had been broadened and provided more opportunities for young people to achieve accreditation not only through the curriculum but also through wider achievement and vocational education. An increasingly extensive set of data is now used to enable staff to monitor and track progress of young people within the school.

Councillors Band and Wilson asked for more information on what was being done to support under-achievers in the school. In responding the Head of Education – Secondary and Inclusion reported that targeted mentor support was offered to young people who had been identified as under-achievers.

Mrs Bridge welcomed the significant progress reported within the joint follow-up report on the School.

Resolved:

- (i) Having heard the relevant officers on the key findings of the inspections, and following consideration and questions from the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that the following reports, attached in Appendices 1 to 7 of Report 16/191, be noted:

- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, Kinnoull Church Nursery (Appendix 1a)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, Kinnoull Church Nursery (Appendix 1b)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report June 2012, Kinnoull Church Nursery (Appendix 1c)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, ABC Day Nursery (Appendix 2a)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, ABC Day Nursery (Appendix 2b)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report November 2010, ABC Day Nursery (Appendix 2c)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, Errol Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 3a)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, Errol Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 3b)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report January 2014, Errol Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 3c)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, Abernethy Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 4a)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, Abernethy Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 4b)
 - Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report June 2011, Abernethy Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 4c)
 - Perth and Kinross Council and Education Scotland Follow-up Report, Blairgowrie High School (Appendix 5a)
 - Education Scotland Inspection Letter, Blairgowrie High School (Appendix 5b)
 - Follow Through Procedures: Progress Report to Parents, Viewlands Primary School (Appendix 6)
 - Care Inspectorate Inspection Report, The Wendy House (Appendix 7)
- (ii) The Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to submit an update report on meeting learners needs at Errol Primary School to the Executive Sub-Committee in 12 months' time.

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) (16/192), setting out the key findings following an unannounced inspection of The Cottages in September 2015 and an unannounced inspection of Woodlea Cottage in January 2016, both carried out by the Care Inspectorate.

Resolved:

Having heard the relevant officers on the key findings of the inspections, and following consideration and questions from the Sub-Committee, it was agreed that the following reports, attached in Appendices 1 and 2 of Report 16/192, be noted:

- Care Service Inspection Report, The Cottages (Appendix 1)
- Care Service Inspection Report, Woodlea Cottage (Appendix 2)
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R JAY, K ROBERTSON, C WILLIAMSON AND N WILSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

6. DEVELOPING THE LITERACY AND NUMERACY SKILLS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (16/193), (1) highlighting the continuous improvement priorities of literacy and numeracy in schools and how Perth and Kinross Council is striving to achieve this; (2) presenting the support structures that have been developed creating the conditions for a collaborative approach to the continued development of literacy and numeracy, and sharing case studies of effective practice that are enabling this; (3) considering the levels of attainment achieved in literacy and numeracy by children and young people in Perth and Kinross schools; and (4) presenting data gathered locally, and also through the mechanisms of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

In responding to a request from Councillor Band for an example of Level 4 attainment in literacy and numeracy the Head of Education – Secondary and Inclusion reported that the SQA deemed achieving Level 4 as being ready to go to work. In relation to Levels 5 or 6 these levels of attainment were required for further study and a vocational qualification.

Councillor Vaughan welcomed the case studies detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 16/193 mentioning in particular Grandtully Primary School's use of digital technology to engage pupils with new books and authors and asked if Education and Children's Services had any plans to roll out these examples of good practice in

other Perth and Kinross Council schools. The Head of Education – Secondary and Inclusion advised that examples of good practice are shared at Local Management Group meetings by the numeracy and literacy co-ordinator. In addition the sharing of information and experience regularly takes place at Headteacher meetings.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 16/193, be noted.