

Minute of Meeting

Education and Children Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 03 November 2016	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Councillors B Brown, Cameron, Andy Doig, Glen, Henry, Lawson, M Macmillan, I McMillan, McQuade, Murrin, Mylet, Perrie, J Sharkey, M Sharkey and Williams and, I Keith and J Nellaney.

CHAIR

Councillor Henry, Convener, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

P Macleod, Director of Children's Services; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; G McKinlay, Head of Schools, D Hawthorn, Head of Childcare and Criminal Justice, J Trainer, Head of Early Years and Inclusion (all Children's Services); and J Lynch, Head of Property Services, A Fraser, Finance Business Partner and D Low, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

APOLOGIES

Reverend G Clark.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Children's Services for the service for the period 1 April to 16 September 2016.

DECIDED:

(a) That the budget position be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that since the budget was approved there had been a number of budget adjustments resulting in a net increase of £526,084 primarily relating to adjustments for rates realignments and transfer of grant income to Leisure Services. The increases were partially offset by procurement savings, the transfer of budgets for Corporate Landlord maintenance and Policy and Commissioning team to Chief Executive's.

2 **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources for the service for the period 1 April to 16 September 2016.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

SEDERUNT

Councillor Williams entered the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

3 **FAMILIES FIRST EARLY YEARS STRATEGY IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT MAY 2016**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the May 2016 early years strategy impact evaluation report which was the third in a series of formative self-evaluations of the impact of Renfrewshire's "Families First" Early Years strategy. The evaluation commenced in December 2015 and was completed in April 2016.

The early years implementation plan had produced 57 actions and these were detailed in the appendix section of the evaluation report. Telephone interviews were conducted with the lead officers responsible for the 57 actions and this helped to inform the impact which the strategy was having on parenting skills and wellbeing; attachment and child wellbeing; and professional skills, structures and services.

The Convener welcomed Clare Dooris and Karen Robertson, both Families First, to the meeting who gave a presentation on the evaluation of the work of the Families First teams which were based in Ferguslie, Linwood, Gallowhill, Johnstone and Foxbar.

DECIDED: That the contents and conclusions on the May 2016 Impact Evaluation Report and the presentation be noted.

4 EXPANSION OF ENTITLEMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Government's announcement of its intention to increase the entitlement to free early learning and child care by 2020, increasing the current level of 600 hours to 1140 hours on an annual basis.

The report intimated that the Scottish Government had launched a consultation, 'A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland', on 15 October 2016 which indicated that there would be a need for additional revenue and capital costs to deliver the increased entitlement. To meet the consultation deadline of 9 January 2017, a working group had been established to review the consultation document and prepare a response which would be submitted to the meeting of this Policy Board to be held on 19 January 2017 for homologation.

DECIDED:

(a) That the proposed increase in free early learning and childcare entitlement from 600 hours to 1140 hours be noted;

(b) That it be noted that the increased entitlement was due to be implemented by 2020;

(c) That the launch of the Scottish Government consultation on how to deliver the increased entitlement be noted; and

(d) That it be agreed that the Head of Early Years and Inclusion submit a draft response to the consultation and that the response be submitted to the next meeting of this board for homologation.

5 SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Council's proposals for action to raise attainment for all children and young people and to close the attainment gap between those in the most affluent backgrounds and those living in the most deprived areas as set out in the Scottish Attainment Challenge announced by the Scottish Government in 2015. The proposals for action were set out in the appendix to the report which provided detail on how the Scottish Attainment Challenge would be implemented in Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the proposals appended to the report be implemented.

6 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE: STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC. ACT 2000

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Scottish Government consultation on statutory guidance for Part 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 which covered those provisions which made amendments to various sections of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000.

The report intimated that the draft statutory guidance had been developed to support those who had responsibility for various duties in relation to: reducing inequalities of outcomes for pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage; the National Improvement Framework (NIF); and planning and reporting duties at school and education authority levels. The proposed response to the consultation was appended to the report.

DECIDED: That the response to the consultation on Draft Statutory Guidance: Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, appended to the report, be approved.

7 REVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACTIONS TO TACKLE UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRACY AND UNDUE WORKLOAD IN SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the review of local authorities' action to tackle unnecessary bureaucracy and undue workload in schools which was published on 19 September 2016.

The report intimated that inspectors had judged that Renfrewshire had provided support and guidance that placed reasonable demands upon staff. The report also detailed a number of recommendations for all local authorities as well as four specific areas for improvement in Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

8 RENFREWSHIRE'S POLICY ON ANTI-BULLYING

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the background and development of Renfrewshire's updated policy on anti-bullying which would be submitted to a future meeting of this Policy Board.

DECIDED: That the progress being made to prevent, reduce and respond to bullying behaviour in Renfrewshire schools be noted.

9 FURTHER INSPECTION OF CLIPPENS SCHOOL, LINWOOD

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the further inspection by Education Scotland of Clippens School, Linwood undertaken in January 2016 as part of its continuing engagement with the school.

A copy of the letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 4 October 2016 was appended to the report. The inspection report intimated that there had been no significant improvements in the school since the last inspection in May 2015. A review of the school had been undertaken by Children's Services in June 2016 to further support the school in its improvement. An action plan had been developed as a result of the focused review and this was being implemented in the school with the support and regular monitoring from Children's Services officers.

Councillor Henry, seconded by Councillor M Macmillan, moved (a) that the Education Scotland further inspection report on Clippens School be noted and (b) that a further report be submitted to this Board prior to August 2017.

Councillor Cameron, seconded by Councillor Lawson, moved as an amendment (a) that the Education Scotland further inspection report on Clippens School be noted and (b) that a further report be submitted to either this Board or full Council in three months.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Cameron, Andy Doig, Lawson, McQuade, Mylet and Perrie.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors B Brown, Glen, Henry, M Macmillan, I McMillan, Murrin, J Sharkey, M Sharkey and Williams and I Keith.

The following member abstained: J Nellaney.

6 members having voted for the amendment, 10 members having voted for the motion and 1 member having abstained, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Education Scotland further inspection report on Clippens School be noted; and

(b) That a further report be submitted to this Board prior to August 2017.

10 JOINT INSPECTION OF GLENBURN PRE-5 CENTRE, PAISLEY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the inspection by Education Scotland of Glenburn Pre-5 Centre, Paisley, undertaken during June 2016, as part of a national sample of early education and childcare.

A copy of the letter to parents, published by Education Scotland on 6 September 2016, was appended to the report. The inspection report had identified two key strengths and three areas for further improvement. An action plan would be developed and shared with parents, indicating how the points for action on the inspection report would be addressed. The report stated that the school would be supported in its improvement and arrangements would be made to inform parents of the progress made by the school in addressing the main points identified for action within two years of the original inspection.

DECIDED: That the key strengths and the areas for improvement in the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate report on Glenburn pre-5 centre be noted.

11 CHILDREN'S SERVICES SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/17 - MID-YEAR MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Service Improvement Plan 2016/17 for Children's Services. The report detailed key achievements over the period 1 April to 30 September 2016; provided an update on the delivery of the Service Improvement Plan action plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and assessed service performance in the scorecard of core performance indicators as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the progress made on service performance be noted;
- (b) That the progress made on actions and performance in the action plan be noted;
and
- (c) That it be noted that an out-turn report would be provided to this Policy Board in
spring 2017.