

Minute of Meeting

Education and Children's Services Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 19 August 2021	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present: Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor John Shaw, Mr Ravinder Singh, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor Paterson, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

S Quinn, Director of Children's Services, J Calder, Head of Service (Curriculum & Quality), G McKinlay, Head of Schools, J Trainer, Head of Childcare & Criminal Justice (all Children's Services); J Connolly, Senior Communications Officer (Chief Executive's); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, G McLachlan, Senior Finance Manager, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Low, Democratic Services Manager, R Devine, E Gray and C MacDonald, Senior Democratic Services Officers, and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Board would be webcast live on the Council's website and outlined the rules to be followed by participants at a hybrid meeting.

Thereafter the Clerk took a roll call of members in attendance at the meeting, indicating those in the Council Chamber and those participating remotely.

Apologies

Mary Jane Bird and Jack Nellaney.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hughes declared a non-financial interest in respect of agenda item 2 - Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2021-2024 - as she was the Chair of Renfrewshire Leisure Board of Directors and intimated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Graham declared a non-financial interest in respect of agenda item 2 - Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2021-2024 - as he was a volunteer with Barnardo's and intimated that it was his intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as 25 June 2021

There was submitted a joint revenue and capital budget monitoring report by the Directors of Children's Services and Finance & Resources for the period to 25 June 2021.

The report projected a revenue overspend of £1.427 million and an underspend of £0.4 million in respect of capital as at 31 March 2022 for Children's Services. It was noted that for financial year 2021/22 the projected outturn position was split into core and Covid-19 related variances.

DECIDED:

(a) That the projected revenue outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 1 of the report be noted, and that it be further noted that the forecast position was based on best estimates and confirmed government support at this point in time and that forecasts were likely to be subject to fluctuation as the year progressed. The service would continue to mitigate as far as possible any overspend;

(b) That the projected capital outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 2 of the report be noted; and

(c) That the budget adjustments detailed in sections 4 and 6 of the report be noted.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Graham and Councillor Hughes, having previously declared interests in the following item, remained in the meeting.

2 Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2021-2024

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2021/24 which provided details of the plan which had been produced in line with the joint statutory duty of local authorities and health boards.

The report intimated that the plan was framed around a joint vision – “Renfrewshire’s children are happy, healthy, safe and thriving” and four outcomes, informed by a needs assessment, which partners wanted to achieve for the children and young people of Renfrewshire. The report also intimated that partners would continue to monitor their own single-agency plans, which included many initiatives which also contributed to the four outcomes identified in the Children’s Services Plan and that these contributions would be reflected as part of the monitoring and reporting process.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the plan was submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2021;

(b) That the Renfrewshire Children’s Services Partnership Plan 2021/24, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be homologated; and

(c) That it be noted that Renfrewshire HSCP were jointly responsible for this plan under delegated authority from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board.

3 Duty of Candour – Annual Report

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the annual report on the Duty of Candour as required by the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016.

The report set out details on the number of incidents or events where the duty of candour was triggered, how the policy was followed in these incidents and any learning from the incidents. Renfrewshire had no reportable duty of candour incidents during the period covered by the report.

DECIDED: That the annual duty of candour report be noted.

4 Standard Circular 23: School Fund Procedures

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to standard circular 23 which provided a framework within which schools in Renfrewshire might operate an independent school fund.

The report set out revisions to the standard circular, following consultation and review by internal audit, which had been implemented to ensure compliance with current financial regulations and best practice.

DECIDED: That the revised standard circular 23 as outlined in the appendices to the report be approved.