

MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2018

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors S Warren (Chair), P Coy (Depute Chair), L Laing, A McLean, S Morrison, T Eagle, C Feaver, G Alexander, J Allan, L Creswell, R Edwards and D Ross, Ms A Stuart, Primary Representative, Mrs S Slater (Secondary Representative), Mr O Hannan (Parent Representative and Miss L Burt (Pupil Representative).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor F Brown, Reverend A Gray, Reverend C Ketley and Mrs A Currie (Religious Representatives),

IN ATTENDANCE

The Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care); the Head of Integrated Children's Services; the Head of Schools and Curriculum Development, the Educational Resources Manager, the Corporate Parenting and Commissioning Manager and Mrs Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting. Councillor Leadbitter was also in attendance as ex-officio.

1. WELCOME

The meeting joined the Chair in welcoming Miss Leah Burt from Elgin Academy to her first meeting in her role as Pupil Representative and looked forward to hearing her views and opinions at this and future meetings.

The meeting also joined the Chair in welcoming two exchange students, Mia and Katie, from Mount Dora, Florida. The 2 students are currently living in Forres with a host family until 12 July and are attending Forres Academy, as well as absorbing themselves in the local culture. On the invitation of the Chair i Mia and Katie provided a short presentation on their experiences so far.

2. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS AND MEMBER'S INTERESTS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

3. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Committee that item 19 on the confidential section of the agenda “Out of Area Placements, Additional Resource Packages and Options to Develop Residential Child Care Provision in Moray” had been withdrawn and that Appendix I of item 17 “Out of Area Placements and Additional Resource Packages” (para 16 of the Minute refers) should have been circulated as appendix I of item 19 and therefore could not be discussed in the public section.

4. MINUTE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 2 MAY 2018

The Chair thanked Councillor Eagle for all his time and work as Chair of the Committee over the last year and asked him to present the Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People’s Services Committee dated 2 May 2018.

The Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People’s Services Committee dated 2 May 2018 was submitted and approved.

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE REVIEWS – ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) shared the findings of the Schools for the Future Review visits to the Elgin High School Associated Schools Group (ASG) which took place between February and March 2018.

Following lengthy discussion, during which officers responded to various Members questions, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the report; and
- (ii) the recommendations from the individual reports shown in Appendix 1 of the report.

7. SCHOOL STAFFING UPDATE

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) updated the Committee on the ongoing situation with regards to the recruitment of teaching and promoted teaching staff in schools, highlighting the consequential impact on educational outcomes; and advising of the actions that are being taken to address recruitment and identifying potential options to manage the ongoing educational impact and day to day operation of schools.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the challenges in recruiting teachers and promoted teaching staff in schools and the impact of this on educational outcomes across Moray;
- (ii) recognise the variety of different approaches which have been undertaken to support recruitment challenges and the planned development of these; and
- (iii) note the options in relation to managing the impact of teacher and head teacher shortages in relation to educational outcomes and the day to day running of schools.

8. NORTHERN ALLIANCE REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: CONSULTATION

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed the Committee about the Northern Alliance Regional Improvement Collaborative draft plan and arrangements for consultation with stakeholders.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report;
- (ii) note the draft plan for the Northern Alliance;
- (iii) a wider consultation with stakeholders; and
- (iv) note that the final version of the plan will be submitted to Committee for approval on 26 September 2018.

9. EDUCATION SCOTLAND CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT – SCHOOL FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION – MORTLACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) invited the Committee to scrutinise and note the outcomes of the recently published report on a Moray school following their continuing engagement visit from Education Scotland.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

10. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM APRIL 2018 TO MAY 2018

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed the Committee of the content of singleton inspection reports of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) centres by the Care Inspectorate which were published between March 2018 and May 2018. These were:

Moray College Nursery
St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School Nursery
Knockando Playgroup
Hythehill Primary School Nursery
St Gerardine Primary School Nursery

Findochty Primary School Nursery
St Sylvester's Nursery
Curious Minds
Rothiemay and District Playgroup

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

Councillor Allan joined the meeting during the discussion of this item.

11. PERFORMANCE REPORT (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE) HALF YEAR TO MARCH 2018

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) outlined the performance of services for the period from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note performance against Education and Social Care Performance Indicators and Service Plan actions as at the end of March 2018; and
- (ii) welcomed good performance as indicated in the report and noted actions being taken to seek improvements where required.

Councillor Laing left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

12. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL BUDGETS 2017/18

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of the outturn for projects within the Capital Budgets within Education and Social Care for 2017/18.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

13. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL BUDGETS 2018/19

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of the projects and proposed expenditure for Capital Budgets within Education and Social Care for 2018/19.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

14. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2017/18

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) informed Committee of the budget position for Education and Children and Families Services as at 31 March 2018.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the budget position at 31 March 2018.

15. PROPOSED NAME FOR THE NEW LOSSIEMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) sought Committee approval for the proposed naming of the new build in Lossiemouth.

Councillor Edwards moved that as the new school is a replacement school the name should remain as Lossiemouth High School. This was seconded by Councillor Allan.

Councillor Alexander sought clarification on the definition of a Community School and by changing the name to Academy, does that have a different meaning as it does in England which could be deemed misleading for those applying for jobs from south of the border.

In response, the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) confirmed that there is no definition for a Community School, when the school was built under Grampian Regional Council it had originally been known as Lossiemouth High School and Community Education Centre and then changed to Lossiemouth Community High School. He further confirmed that the Academy system in England is different and does not affect schools in Scotland.

Mrs Slater questioned whether Lossiemouth High School had been an option put forward as part of the consultation with staff and pupils.

In response, the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised that the options had all come from the school and was not guided by staff within Headquarters.

Councillor Morrison questioned whether the 4 local members had been consulted on the proposed names.

In response, Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) could not confirm if the members had been consulted directly, an assumption had been made when the information in the report was received that the Members would have been aware of the movement to change the name of the school.

Councillor Allan suggested that because of the name used for planning purposes was Lossiemouth Learning Centre, the school had assumed that this was going to be the new name and decided to carry out the consultation.

The Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) suggested that as the new school is not due to open until 26 June 2020, there is enough time to re-run a full consultation with the option of Lossiemouth High School being included.

Councillor Morrison agreed with the suggestion but felt it was important that the views of the children currently in the school were not discounted.

The Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) further suggested that there is a new Head Teacher coming into post at the start of the new term who may wish to be included in the discussions of the name.

As a result, Mrs Slater proposed an amendment to put the paper back to the school, to allow the new Head Teacher to take the agenda forward, given that she will be at the helm when the new school opens and ensure that the whole community is consulted and the Committee does not find itself in the same position in a year's time.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Ross.

Following the proposed amendment, Councillor Edwards agreed to remove his motion and as there was no one otherwise minded the Committee agreed to defer the decision to rename the replacement school, to allow the new Head Teacher to take up her post and to ensure that the whole community is consulted on a proposed name change.

16. FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICES UPDATE

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) provided Committee with background information on the developments made within the fostering and adoption services, placement services, as a result of the phase 1 redesign.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the information provided within the report.

17. OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PACKAGES

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) providing Committee with background information on out of area placements and additional resource packages for children and young people with exceptional needs as part of a regular reporting programme.

The Committee noted that as the second recommendation on this report referred to the confidential report relating to this subject matter which had been withdrawn, this recommendation was no longer to be considered,

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the information provided within the report..

18. QUESTION TIME

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the minute of this meeting of 2 May 2018, Councillor Coy sought an update on the report looking at the reduced uptake of music tuition and what can be done to reduce the fees and increase the numbers for reasons of equity.

In response the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) apologised for there not being a report available for this Committee but assured Councillor Coy that a report will be prepared for the September meeting.

Mrs Slater further added that the report was also to look at the inequality for those pupils working towards qualifications in practical subjects having to pay for the resources used, whilst music students get their tuition for free.

The Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) confirmed that the report would also cover this issue.

Under reference to paragraph 14 of the minute of this meeting of 2 May 2018, Councillor Ross stated that he understood that a report would be available for this Committee on the following:

- (i) the number of ASN staff hours that have been used to cover classes during the school year 2017/18;
- (ii) how many Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher hours had been used to cover classes during the school year 2017/18;
- (iii) in terms of cover for the next session, figures on where visiting specialists will be deployed in the next school year on a school by school basis and how many will be deployed in each ASG.

Councillor Ross further added that in his particular Ward, he is aware that there are no visiting specialists employed in the Speyside ASG and feels that it should not be a postcode lottery on whether Visiting Specialists are available and in raising the issue wanted to highlight the problem and would have liked the information to be available to the Committee.

In response the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) said that the information is currently being collated as the data requested was for the 2017/18 school year which was due to come to a close on Friday 29 June 2018.

With regards to the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher hours used to cover teaching, the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) added that this information is not recorded, however the ASN cover is recorded and will be included in the report.

Councillor Ross further stated that he felt this information should be made available to Members in the future as, in his opinion, how Head Teacher's and Depute Head Teacher time is used is pertinent and expressed concern that this was not identified at the last meeting.

Councillor Morrison sought an update on progress following the recent Community Learning Development Inspection.

In response the Head of Integrated Children's Services confirmed that extra support in relation to capacity building will be given by colleagues from Education Scotland from mid August and that the support would also be available in the evening to engage with third sector organisations and communities. She further added that the Community Lifelong Learning Forum are meeting on Friday 29 June 2018 and the updated plan will be available for discussion at that meeting.

She further confirmed that an updated report with feedback on the plan and the visit in August from Education Scotland will be presented to this Committee at the September meeting.

Councillor McLean asked the Chair and Committee to join him in congratulating Mr Bill Hope, former Head Teacher, for 25 years at Elgin High School on his MBE, awarded on the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to charity work which included being a founder member of the Elgin Branch of McMillan Cancer Research, long time chair of Moray Unicef, as well as being involved with the Prince's Trust for a quarter of a century.

In agreement, the Chair congratulated Mr Hope and further added that he is a great community stalwart and a perfect example for the young people of the area to follow.

Councillor Eagle sought clarification on the support being provided to Portessie Primary School following their recent inspection by Education Scotland. He stated acknowledged that there were good areas of the report but expressed concern that 33% of parents had identified that bullying was an issue at the school. He further stated that he had had numerous parents approach him about the issue and that as the end of term was approaching, asked what support is being put in place to help the Head Teacher deal with the issue in time for the start of the new term in August.

In response, the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) highlighted that the issues in the report could not be discussed at this meeting as not all members have seen a copy of the report, however he did confirm that the Head of Schools and Curriculum Development and her team are discussing this with the Head Teacher and measures will be put in place if required for the start of the new term.

The Head of Schools and Curriculum Development further added that following any inspection the school, in conjunction with the Quality Improvement Officer, has to develop an action plan in response to the recommendations or areas of improvement identified by the Inspectors. They will also closely look at the record of findings which gives the finer detail of the inspection process. She further advised that the QIO has already visited and met with the Head Teacher to develop the action plan and further support will be provided as required.

Councillor Alexander sought clarification on the Principal Teacher/Faculty Head system in Moray and asked if there is a policy or is it left to the Head Teacher to decide.

In response, Mrs Slater confirmed that there are no Faculty Heads in Moray. Any proposed changes would need to be consulted on with staff in terms of the lack of promotion opportunities this change would mean and would need to go through a change management programme for which there is a policy .

The Head of Schools and Curriculum Development further responded that staffing is part of the devolved school budget and many Head Teachers have taken the difficult decision, in consultation with staff to merge departments together when staff have left.