

## **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 17 August 2016 at 2.00pm.

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

In Attendance: S Devlin, Director (Education & Children's Services); J Clow, J Chiles, R Jay, S Johnston, P McAvoy and S Turner (both up to and including Item 4); M Macduff and J Sorrie (all Education and Children's Services); L Brown, S Hendry and A Taylor (all Corporate and Democratic Services); L McIntosh, Headteacher, Kenmore Primary School (up to and including Item 5 (Appendix 4)); N Drew, Headteacher, Coupar Angus Primary School.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C Gillies and B Vaughan.

Councillor B Band, Convener, Presiding.

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

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies and substitutions were submitted and noted as above.

### **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 27 April 2016 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

The Sub-Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda to hear the report on the Educational Psychology Service – Validated Self-evaluation as the next item.

### **4. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE – VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION**

There was submitted a report by the Director (Education and Children's Services) (16/343), setting out a description of, and the key findings following, a validated self-evaluation carried out by Educational Psychology Services in partnership with the wider education authority and facilitators from HM Inspectors and Education Scotland.

**Resolved:**

The content of Report 16/343 on the validated self-evaluation of the Perth and Kinross Council Educational Psychology Service and the next steps for the Service as detailed in Section 4 of the Appendix to the report be noted.

**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) (16/342), 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 27 April 2016.

In referring to the inspection report for Oakbank Kids Club, Appendix 1 to Report 16/342 refers, Councillors Band and Wilson asked why the Club had only received an evaluation of very good for the Quality of Environment and not one of excellent given this was a brand new facility. In response J Clow advised that although no formal recommendation had been made Education Scotland had suggested in its report that staff provide a quiet, cosy area where children could chat and read and that this might be the reason for the evaluation of very good rather than excellent.

In commenting on the Education Scotland inspection report for the Teddy Bear Care Nursery Ltd as detailed in Appendix 4 to Report 16/342, Councillor Wilson noted all of the quality indicators had received an evaluation of "good". J Clow in responding advised that Education and Children's Services (ECS) had hoped the nursery would receive an evaluation of very good for "children's experiences". However, despite a moderation exercise being undertaken the evaluation of good had remained.

S Devlin reported that ECS had not agreed with the evaluations contained in Education Scotland's inspection report for Coupar Angus Primary School and Nursery class as detailed in Appendix 6 to Report 16/342. Following further discussion involving the lead inspector, the Quality Improvement Officer and Headteacher, S Devlin had raised issues formally with the inspectorate on aspects of the process which she considered had impacted on the evaluations in the report. Education Scotland had subsequently acknowledged there were lessons to be learned on the way the inspection had been conducted. Since the inspection there had been a change in the senior management at the school and the new Headteacher has introduced a number of improvements.

N Drew, Headteacher detailed improvements which had taken place since the inspection. These included development of a curriculum rationale and a review of the curriculum, introduction of tracking meetings 3 times a year and further assessing in the early years. The school has received positive feedback from parents and visitors on the changes made so far.

Councillor Wilson commented that the evaluations awarded to both the school and nursery class seemed at odds with the comments made in Education Scotland's letter to parents/carers of 22 March 2016. S Devlin advised that Education Scotland had identified areas of very strong practice at the school and concurred with Councillor Wilson's comment that there was disparity between the text in Education Scotland's letter and their outcome and overview of the school.

Mrs Bridge advised she had been very impressed on a visit to the school to see evidence of a great deal of up-to-date practice taking place and had real difficulty in linking what she had witnessed to the evaluations contained in the inspection report.

Councillor Band commented that the new headteacher had made a positive impact at the school in a very short time and asked if support was being provided from the centre. In response S Johnston reported that a number and range of staff were going in to the school to support the headteacher and her team.

**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 as Appendices 1 to 6 of report 16/342, be noted:

- Care Inspectorate Inspection Report on the Day Care of Children, Oakbank Kids Club (Appendix 1)
- Care Inspectorate Inspection Report on the Day Care of Children, St John's Academy Nursery Class (Appendix 2)
- Care Inspectorate Inspection Report on the Day Care of Children, Tulloch Primary School Nursery (Appendix 3)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, Teddy Bear Care Nursery (Appendix 4a)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, Teddy Bear Care Nursery (Appendix 4b)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report November 2015, Teddy Bear Care Nursery (Appendix 4c)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, Kenmore Primary School (Appendix 5a)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, Kenmore Primary School (Appendix 5b)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report November 2014, Kenmore Primary School (Appendix 5c)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Summary, Coupar Angus Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 6a)
- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Inspection Letter, Coupar Angus Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 6b)

- Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Extended Learning and Achievement Visit Report October 2010 and February 2011, Coupar Angus Primary School and Nursery Class (Appendix 6c)