

LEARNING AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Minute of hybrid meeting of the Learning and Families Committee held in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors J Rebbeck, S Carr, M Frampton, Bailie C Ahern, L Barrett, N Freshwater, N Khogali, B Leishman, I MacPherson, I Massie, Provost X McDade, C Reid, C Shiers, C Stewart and J Welch.

In attendance: S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); P Cunningham, G Doogan, S Johnston, D Macluskey, F MacKay, S Sweeney and S Turner (all Education and Children's Services); D Williams, A Brown and M Pasternak (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Councillor J Rebbeck, Convener, Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apology for absence was noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

(i) Learning and Families Committee

The minute of meeting of the Learning and Families Committee of 15 March 2023 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature, subject to the following amendment:

Councillor D Cuthbert to be added to Present as substitute for Councillor C Stewart.

(ii) Executive Sub-Committee of the Learning and Families Committee

The minute of meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 14 June 2022 was submitted and noted.

(iii) Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 13 December 2022

The minute of meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 13 December 2022 was submitted and noted.

4. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Outstanding Business Statement (23/84) was noted.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE LEARNING AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

(i) Appointment of Third Religious Representative on Learning and Families Committee

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (23/127) advising of the process to be undertaken to appoint a third Religious Representative to fill the vacancy on the Learning and Families Committee.

Resolved:

The process for appointment of a third Religious Representative on the Learning and Families Committee be endorsed and members be sought once a date has been set for the individual discussions.

(ii) Teacher Representatives

The appointment of Miranda Powell, representing the Primary School Sector and Tim Kearns, representing the Secondary School Sector as non-voting members of the Learning and Families Committee be noted.

(iii) Parent Council Representatives

It be noted that an extension has been given to Parent Councils for the nomination of both primary and secondary parent representative members of the Committee with a view to proposals being presented to the next meeting of the Committee on 23 August 2023.

(iv) Youth Representatives

It be note that discussions are continuing between staff in Education and Children's Services and the Perth and Kinross Youth Forum regarding the nomination of representatives of children and young people to be members of the Committee.

6. REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ESTATE UPDATE

There was a verbal update by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services). The Committee were advised that the Corporate Estate Strategy will be brought before Council in December. This strategy encapsulates the investment blueprint and property asset strategy and reference to school estate developments will be part of the wider process. Although there is a desire that all of the estate and the assets are considered as part of the Corporate Estate Strategy members of this Committee will be kept fully aware of any decisions made in relation to the school estate as per the previous decision to do so.

7. EDUCATION REFORM IN SCOTLAND UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (23/128) providing (1) and update on the progress of the education reform which is currently underway within the Scottish education system; and (2) some detail on how education officers, which and young people, parents and school staff are engaging with the consultations and activities which are being undertaken to provide feedback on the reform agenda.

There was an amendment proposed by Provost X McDade, regarding the consultation response for Phase 3 of the Hayward Review being submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning and Families, before being submitted as a late response.

THERE FOLLOWED A SHORT RECESS

The Convener agreed to incorporate the Amendment by Provost X McDade into the Committees decision.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of Report 23/128 be noted.
- (ii) Education and Children's Services be requested to continue to actively engage in the reform programmes and ensure that all education stakeholders and relevant partners have the opportunity to provide their views on future policy.
- (iii) Consultation responses be submitted to the Executive Sub-Committee of Learning and Families for approval before being submitted.

8. VIRTUAL CAMPUS (SECONDARY EDUCATION)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (23/129) setting out the key features of the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Virtual Campus in secondary schools, including the purpose, delivery mechanism and audience for this method of learning.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 23/129 be noted.
- (ii) It be agreed that the PKC Virtual Campus is planned to grow proportionately to create and widen opportunities for all young people.
- (iii) It be agreed that the PKC Virtual Campus continues to sit within the wider PKC Digital Framework and evolves and adapts in line with, and taking account of, wider Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) and National developments.
- (iv) It be agreed that Perth and Kinross Council to continue to explore virtual delivery models to create more opportunities for children and young people.
- (v) It be agreed that an update on the continued development of the PKC Virtual Campus be provided to all elected members by way of an Elected Member Briefing in March 2024

VICE-CONVENER M FRAMPTON LED ON FOLLOWING ITEM.

9. SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH WORK

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (23/130) (1) describing the current context and activity in relation to suicide prevention in Education and Children's Services; (2) detailing the actions taken to date, since the survey, detailing the work of the Mental Health Delivery Group and liaison with partner agencies; and (3) lays out some of the inherent challenges and describes the onward plan.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 23/130 be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to bring back an update report on implementation of the actions.

VICE-CONVENER S CARR LED ON FOLLOWING ITEM.

10. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (23/131) (1) providing the context for the financial pressures; (2) describing how funds will be utilised throughout 2023-2025; and (3) outlines the anticipated outcomes; in response to the approval, at Council on 1 March 2023, of an earmarked reserve to provide additional financial support to manage the impact of COVID-19 on children and their families and to help reduce the need for residential care placements.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 23/131 be noted and the process to achieve the proposed outcomes be supported.
- (ii) It be approved that progress on the position of the Residential Care Budget and wider Services for Children, Young People and Families Budget continues to be reported to the Finance and Resources committee within the Revenue Monitoring Report.