

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Hamilton, (Joint Chair : Education & Young People), L Bell, (Joint Chair : Health & Social Care), G Coull, J Cree, J Hogg, B Jarvis, G Leadbitter, G McIntyre, A McDonald, G McDonald, A McKay, F Murdoch, I Ogilvie, P Paul, D Ross, J Russell, M Shand, R Shepherd, D Stewart, A Wright, I Young, Rev C M Stewart, (Religious Representative)(for items 1-6), and Mrs S Slater, (Secondary Teacher Representative).

ALSO PRESENT BY INVITATION

Mr Richard Fowles & Roger Hendrikson of the Social Work Inspection Agency in respect of Agenda Item 5 'SWIA Presentation'.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Educational Services, the Head of Educational Support Services, the Head of Educational Resource Services, the Head of Educational Development Services, the Libraries and Museums Manager, the Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer, the Educational Resources Manager, Mrs S Duffus, J Gibson, P Watson, Quality Improvement Officers, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, Karen Wiles, Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing), the Director of Community Services, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, the Lead System Manager, the Head of Estate Services, G McClafferty (Research & Information Officer) and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J Divers, J MacKay, M McConachie E McGillivray, Mrs A MacLennan, Rev G Swanson (Religious Representative), Miss F Wardhaugh, (Primary Teacher Representative), and Miss L Young, (Pupil Representative).

1. CHAIR

Councillor J Hamilton, Joint Chair (Education & Young People), took the Chair in respect of the Education & Young People's Section of business on the Agenda.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 25, the meeting agreed to vary the order of business set down on the Agenda and take Item 38 "Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) Report on Performance Inspection of the Moray Council Social Work Services" following Item 5 on the Agenda for Education & Young People.

3. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

In terms of the relevant Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct the meeting noted that 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.

4. EDUCATION ISSUES

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman referred Members to the comments about the Headteacher at Elgin Academy, which were badly misrepresented in the media and advised the meeting that the Director of Educational Services will clarify the position with parents, Head Teacher and staff.

The Chair also referred to the number of Inspection reports on the Agenda and advised that Members had been given the opportunity to attend briefing sessions specifically to look at the Educational Services inspection in depth and have any questions answered. These sessions had proved to be very useful, although they were not as well attended as he would have hoped. He further advised that to assist Members with diary commitments it was his intention to hold regular briefing sessions for members of the committee on the Friday prior to the Education & Social Services Committee and that details of dates, times and location would be sent to all concerned.

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Meeting noted that there were no written questions.

6. INEA 2 PRESENTATION

Councillor G Leadbitter, joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

On the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Educational Services gave a presentation to the Committee on the background to the INEA 2 inspection; the challenges for the Council; improvements in performance; capacity for improvement; key strengths; main points for action; action plan and return visit. Thereafter the Director of Educational Services responded to Members' questions.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Director of Educational Services for his informative presentation.

7. SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY (SWIA)

The meeting noted the attendance of Mark Hendrikson and Richard Fowles of the Social Work Inspection Agency., (SWIA).

On the invitation of the Chairman, Richard Fowles SWIA Lead Inspector gave a presentation to the Committee on the key features, process, evaluations, recommendations, positive findings and the way forward following the SWIA inspection of Social Work Services. Thereafter, he responded to Members' questions.

On the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Community Services, made some general comments to the Committee and re-iterated that the inspection was a snapshot in time and that Members would see from the report that Community Services had been on a journey of service improvement for quite a period of time. He further advised that a number of issues and developments in paragraph 5.4 of the report had been embedded in practice in advance of the inspection. He also referred to paragraph 5.3 of the report where a number of specific initiatives had taken place but he was aware that inspections were based on what information Inspectors have at the time. He issued an important message to members and staff to look beyond grades and look at the detail. There were a number of positives happening in Moray but there were also significant weaknesses which had to be addressed. In regard to key process he advised that he was actively trying to address data collection, recording practices and management overview issues and that progress was happening and they were well on the road to securing truly embedded systems and practices.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee thanked Richard Fowles for his informative presentation and advised that he had found the first SWIA report to be very positive and useful. There were many strengths identified and also work to be done but he was confident that the Director of Community Services and his Team would address these issues.

Councillor Bell echoed the Chairman's comments and reiterated that inspections were a snapshot at a period in time, that the service had moved on and he was impressed with the positive comments regarding partnership working and he recognised the strong commitment to improve services. He further stated this had been a challenging exercise for staff and he congratulated the Director and his staff for producing the draft Action Plan one month ahead of time.

8. SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY (SWIA) REPORT ON PERFORMANCE INSPECTION OF THE MORAY COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee on the outcome of Moray Council's first comprehensive inspection of Social Work Services and outlining the process for taking matters forward post-inspection.

The Director advised members that the draft action plan had been subject to minor amendment and had now been fully approved by SWIA. The final version and progress to date would be reported to the next meeting of this committee.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to :

- (i) note the outcome of the Performance Inspection of Social Work Services in Moray;
- (ii) note the draft action plan which had been endorsed in principle by SWIA, has been subject to minor amendment and has been approved by SWIA; and
- (iii) note that the Director of Community Services will submit reports to Education and Social Services Committee and Audit and Performance Committee, as required, on progress outlined in relation to the action plan.

9. INTEGRATED PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARY PROVISION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to approve the proposed programme for the integration of public and school library provision at Findochty and Fochabers.

During discussions the meeting noted that following the previous Committee the three ward members for Fochabers & Lhanbryde, in consultation with the Head Teacher had met with officers and now understood the reasons behind the revised timescales. It was also noted that a meeting with the Parent Council's had been arranged for Monday 25 February and that the community would be informed of any developments thereafter.

Councillor McIntyre requested that car parking issues be brought forward as this would help to ensure completion by 2010.

Thereafter the meeting agreed to approve the proposed programme for the integration of public and school library provision at Findochty and Fochabers as undernoted:-

2008 August	Findochty
2010 October	Fochabers

10. REVISED ELGIN CITY FC SYNTHETIC TURF PITCH PROPOSAL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to consider a revised proposal from Elgin City Football Club for the development of a synthetic turf pitch at Lesser Borough Briggs.

Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Young moved deferral of the report pending the results of the feasibility study with HIE Moray.

In concurring with the motion Councillor Leadbitter advised that the Local Plan issue for the future use of this land was not finalised and that Elgin City Football Club should consider looking at other potential sites with a view to widening their options.

There being no one otherwise minded the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report, pending the results of the feasibility study with HIE Moray.

11. ACTION PLAN FOR SPEYSIDE & BUCKIE SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services requesting that the Committee notes and approves the Action Plan in relation to the proposed synthetic turf pitches at Buckie High School and Speyside High School.

In response to a query from Councillor Hamilton in regard to paragraph 3.7 of the report about the lowest tender the Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer clarified the situation and advised that all tenders are evaluated to ensure they meet the quality criteria and then the lowest tender is considered.

In response to a query from Councillor Ross about floodlighting hours the Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer advised that objections had been received and hours had been restricted but there was scope to extend these hours.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the action plan outlining the operational and management procedures in relation to the proposed synthetic turf pitches at Speyside High School and Buckie High School; and
- (ii) approve the action plan for the proposed synthetic turf pitches at Buckie High School and Speyside High School.

12. GLENLIVET/TOMINTOUL – PAIRED HEAD TEACHER MODEL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to note the contents of the report which provides feedback on the second evaluation of the paired Headteacher model involving Glenlivet and Tomintoul Primary Schools.

In response to concerns highlighted by Councillor Paul in regard to the work undertaken by the Head Teacher becoming too onerous, the Head of Educational Development Services advised that they were aware of the concern and advised that the Head Teacher does find the workload heavy at times, however, she felt it was a job she was able to do and that this situation was more of a concern for her staff. He reassured Councillor Paul that they were monitoring the situation and if there was a problem they would look at the alternatives.

Thereafter the Committee noted the contents of the report on the second of three evaluations of the Paired Head Teacher Model involving Glenlivet and Tomintoul Primary Schools.

13. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of additional funding that is likely to be made available to the Council to support further implementation of the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' Agenda.

In response to a query from Councillor Coull about staffing the Director of Community Services advised that they were extending the contract of an existing member of staff to fulfil training needs.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the likely availability of further funding from the North of Scotland Learning Network, which is subject to final approval by the Scottish Government; and

- (ii) delegate authority to the Director of Community Services to allocate the additional £20,000 in line with the terms of the original funding application.

14. PREPARATION FOR CHILD PROTECTION INSPECTION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee on the forthcoming inspection of the Child Protection Services in Moray. The report outlined the scope and timetable associated with the inspection, summarises the action being taken to prepare for the inspection and considers the process for taking matters forward post-inspection.

The Director of Community Services advised the meeting what was involved in the task of co-ordinating activity and support for the inspection process and they were back filling as best as they could. He further advised that Community Services were trying to free up a member of staff specifically for this task.

Councillor Cree welcomed the report and stated that it was good to see what a Local Authority has to undertake in preparation for an inspection.

Thereafter the Committee noted that an inspection of Child Protection Services in Moray will take place between June and August 2008 and noted the work currently being undertaken on a joint agency basis to prepare for the inspection.

15. KINSHIP CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of the publication by the Scottish Executive in December 2007 of a strategy document 'Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care', and seeking permission from the Committee to submit to a future meeting costed proposals in the development of a Kinship Care Scheme in Moray to complement the Moray Fostering Scheme.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had attended the launch of the strategy 'Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care' which had been well attended.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the publication and key messages of the Scottish Government's strategy document 'Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care'; and
- (ii) that the Community Services Department bring forward costed proposals to develop a Kinship Care Scheme in Moray.

16. UPDATING OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MORAY FOSTERING AND ADOPTION PANELS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services seeking Committee approval to update the operational arrangements for the Moray Adoption and Fostering Panels.

Following consideration the Committee agreed the approval by the Moray Council of carers assessed by Aberlour Child Care Trust for their Moray Options Respite Care Scheme.

17. CO-LOCATED UNIT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to progress with a proposal to establish a co-located Child Protection Unit in Moray in partnership with Grampian Police.

In response to Councillor Coull's question about entering into a formal agreement with Grampian Police, the Head of Estate Services advised that these issues were covered and regulated by the Licensing Agreement.

In response to Councillor's Cree query regarding additional staff the Head of Children and Families advised that work is currently disseminated amongst teams and that additional staff would enable existing staff to concentrate on providing planned support to vulnerable families.

Councillor Leadbitter advised the meeting that the report had been useful and that the intensity of work carried out is invisible and very resource intensive and he recognised that a good job was being done in this area.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the establishment of Co-Located Child Protection Unit in Moray subject to capital and revenue costs being agreed by the Moray Council at its budget setting meeting on 14 February 2008: and
- (ii) that should the Unit be established its operation will be subject to review and will be reported to Committee nine months after commencing activities.

18. FOSTERING FINANCE AND RELATED ALLOWANCES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services asking the Committee to approve the level of payments for the Moray Fostering Scheme allowances based on the Fostering Network recommendations for 2008/09 and the level of payments for Residency Allowances and Adoption Allowances for 2008/09.

Following consideration the Committee approved the allowances as detailed in tables 1 and 2 of the report from 1 April 2008.

19. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Performance Indicators for Criminal Justice for the quarter, 1 October to 31 December 2007, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

During discussion, Councillor Hogg asked why figures were only being reported for November 07; requested if percentage increases could be expressed as a percentage of offenders seen by a supervisor within one week; and why thirty per cent of offenders were not being seen on time and what sanctions were being applied to the offenders.

In response to these queries, the Director of Community Services advised that unless there was a valid reason for probationers not turning up they will get into trouble for breach of their order. This was not a soft option and they would be dealt with harshly if they do not comply. In regard to the capturing of quarterly information he advised that there were issues surrounding the poor figures and issues about such things as sentencing by Courts outwith Moray and that locally progress was better.

In response to Councillor G McDonald's request for dates to be on the reports when written the Head of Children and Families agreed to look into this.

Thereafter the Committee noted the performance information contained with Appendix 1 of the report.

20. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2007/08

There was submitted a report from the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational Services for 2007/08.

During discussion Councillor Ross raised some concern about the heating in the nursery area at Mosstodloch Primary School and advised that there had been some upgrading work done in the past which he believed had not been successful and he wondered what consultation had been carried out.

He also sought clarification about the monies for the Portgordon Primary School project and wondered if this money was just for fencing or was a soft play area included.

In response to Councillor Ross's queries the Educational Resources Manager advised that a lot of consultation had taken place but he was not sure if this had included the janitor, however, there had been a lot of contact between property services, maintenance and staff at the school. He confirmed that the monies identified in paragraph 4.4 of the report for the Portgordon Primary project were only for fencing.

Councillor Ross asked that in the interest of safety that the issue of soft play areas be looked at as a matter of urgency so that he could report back to the Parent Councils.

In response to Councillor Russell's concern about Elgin Academy the Educational Resource Manager advised that works had been identified in ventilation and windows and these works will require to be balanced with the PPP Project to make it a reasonable teaching environment.

During discussion, of this item Councillor Leadbitter, seconded by Councillor Shand moved that an additional recommendation be considered that the Education & Social Services Committee recommend to the Policy Committee that in its discussions on future capital plans it looks to progress regional sports facilities adjacent to Elgin High School which will be of a benefit to the entire community.

As an amendment, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Wright moved approval of the recommendations as stated in the report.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (10)	-	Councillors Leadbitter, Shand, Coull, Jarvis, A McDonald, G McDonald, Ogilvie, Paul, Stewart and Mrs S Slater.
For the amendment (12)	-	Councillors Ross, Wright, Bell, Cree, Hamilton, Hogg, McIntyre, A McKay, Murdoch, Russell, Shepherd and Young.
Abstentions (0).	-	-

Accordingly, the Amendment became the finding of the meeting and it was agreed to:

- (i) note the current position regarding Educational Services Capital Programme; and
- (ii) approve the school projects as listed within paragraph 4.4 of the report.

21. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing the Committee with a summary statement for the Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2007.

In response to concern expressed by Councillor G McDonald in regard to the budget overspend the Head of Educational Resource Services advised that the revenue budget was devolved to Head Teachers and they can overspend or underspend within limits set within the DSM Scheme.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the budget position as at 31 December 2007 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

22. HMIE INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE – JANUARY 2008

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the recent report published following an inspection by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in relation to the Educational Psychology Service in Moray.

The Chair, advised that this was a very positive inspection and congratulated all staff involved in the inspection.

Councillor Paul also commented on the positive elements in the inspection with only one weakness which is being dealt with and she felt that credit where credit was due and congratulated all staff involved.

Thereafter the Committee noted the report.

23. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM NOVEMBER 2007 – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of the singleton inspections of pre-school centres by the Care Commission which were received between November 2007 and December 2007.

24. INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES – PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM AUGUST 2007 – JANUARY 2008

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the integrated inspections of pre-school centres by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Care Commission which were published between August 2007 and January 2008.

In response to Councillor Paul's request for additional information on the issue surrounding fitness of employees the Director of Educational Services agreed to brief her following the meeting.

Thereafter the Committee noted the contents of the report.

25. MONITORING REPORT: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services bringing to the Committee's attention, details of complaints received during the period 1 November to 31 December 2007. It was also noted that all complaints had been dealt within the time scale for the period 1st November to 31st December 2007.

26. HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTIONS – PUBLISHED REPORTS DECEMBER 2007 – JANUARY 2008

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the most recent reports published following inspections by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of schools in Moray as undernoted:

- (i) Inspection of Milne's High School – Appendix 1
- (ii) Inspection of Hythehill Primary School and Nursery Class – Appendix 2
- (iii) Interim follow-through Inspection of Newmill Primary School – Appendix 3
- (iv) Follow-through Inspection of Keith Grammar School – Appendix 4

Councillor Ross as one of the three local members for Milne's High School advised that they were all agreed that this was not the best report and following a meeting with Mr P Watson, QIO and a tour of the school they were of the view that it was a very different school to the one mentioned in the report. He commended school staff who had done well to maintain the current position. In regard to the complaints made about the absence of a Head Teacher he advised that a new appointment had been made and the school had now moved on. He also advised that staff were happy with the amount of support given by Mr Watson, QIO and although there were some areas that were poor and some areas that required strengthening, pupils came out well and the school is highly regarded in the community. On a positive note he felt that if HMIE had been seriously concerned about the school they would have been back within a year whereas they were quite content with the work being done and would not be re-visiting the school for two years.

Councillor A McDonald concurred with Councillor Ross and felt that Milne's High School is going in the right direction and that the new Head Teacher can only go forward and strengthen and improve the school for the future.

Councillor Stewart welcomed the report on Hythehill and congratulated the staff. He made reference to the condition of the playground and wondered if CCTV cameras for Hythehill had been identified within the eight schools.

The Head of Educational Resource Services advised that the entrance and traffic issues were being discussed by the School Traffic Co-ordinator and the police and that the ideal solution would be for parent traffic not to enter the school and to look at providing suitable drop off and pick up points. He also confirmed that Hythehill Primary School had been identified as a priority for playground repairs as part of the rolling programme.

Councillor G McDonald advised that the Chief Executive has a responsibility to look after the school under the Standards for Schools Act and felt that all members have a responsibility to look after their schools and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Education and Social Services Committee on Portessie School. In regard to Buckie High School he advised that a substantial amount of cars were parking in the play ground and driving through "no entry" signs and asked if there was any legal enforcement action that could be taken.

The Head of Educational Resource Services agreed to look at the situation and to bring back a report on Portessie Primary school to the next meeting of the Education and Social Services Committee.

Councillor Leadbitter referred to the meeting of the Education and Social Services dated 28 November 2007 Meeting (para 18 of the minute refers) where it had been agreed that a column would be provided in the report on self evaluation and he was disappointed not to see this in the report.

In response, the Director of Educational Services advised that he had raised this issue at the briefing session and that this column would be included in the next round of reports.

27. SCHOOL INSPECTIONS – MORAY COUNCIL FOLLOW-THROUGH REPORTS NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise and note the most recent reports published by Moray Council Educational Services following earlier school inspections by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIe).

The Chair, supported by Councillor Paul congratulated the Headteacher, staff and pupils at Mortlach Primary school in addressing the main points for action.

Thereafter the meeting noted the report.

28. SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE FOR PERIOD FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services updating the Committee on the progress being made against the Educational Services Improvement Plan 2005-2008 (Revised April 2007).

29. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING – ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE/DESTINATION OF LEAVERS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise the performance information with regard to pupil attendance and school leaver destinations.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Hogg about the high absence levels the Head of Educational Development Services advised that the picture in Moray was quite good compared with comparator schools and that a reviewed attendance policy was currently out for consultation and

would be reported to the next meeting of the Education and Social Services Committee to ensure that the position doesn't slip.

30. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORT – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise the performance information contained in the Public Performance Report – December 2007.

Councillor Hogg welcomed the first annual performance report and asked why this was not compared against all 31 Education Authorities and requested that this information be provided in next years report in rank order or National Comparison Deciles format.

In response the Head of Educational Development Services thanked Councillor Hogg for his positive comments and advised that comparator families are the ones that are most like Moray on a socio-economic background and that was the reason the Council we are in this group and deprivation was one of the factors that influenced this. He also advised that he would like to see information included in the report on the Libraries and museums, Community Learning and Development services which would give a more reflective view of Educational Services in total rather than just schools.

31. EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT MONITORING 2007/08

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing an update on progress in respect of the Council's Efficient Government agenda as it affects Educational Services for the period to 31 December 2007 as detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report.

32. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PPP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing a summary statement for the PPP Budget as at 31 December 2007.

The meeting noted that interviews for a Project Manager had taken place and that an appointment would be made in the next few days.

Thereafter the Committee noted the revenue budget position as at 31 December 2007 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

33. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE IMPROVEMENT TARGETS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services recommending specific improvement targets for the performance indicators reported by the Children and Families Social Work Service in relation to its key activities, to enable the Committee to set the targets that will apply.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the performance Indicators for the Children and Families Service performance improvement targets and also approved that they apply for the remainder of the current year and for 2008/09.

34. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PERFORMANCE REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Performance Indicators for Children & Families for the quarter, 1st October to 31st December 2007, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report.

In response to query from Councillor Cree about the lack of detail in the report the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice agreed to look into this matter and bring it to the attention of the Quality Assurance Manager.

Thereafter the Committee noted the targets for the Children and Families Service performance improvement targets as detailed in Appendix 1.

35. CELEBRATING SUCCESS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services sharing with the Committee some of the successes which schools and services within Educational Services have achieved in recent months.

36. ELGIN TOWN HALL: ALTERATIONS TO SUPPER ROOM TO PROVIDE A TRAINING VENUE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider approving alterations to the Supper Room at Elgin Town Hall to increase its function as a Council training and meeting venue during weekday daytimes. The Supper Room would continue to operate as a community facility during the evening and at weekends.

Councillor Hamilton brought to members attention the lack of suitable accommodation venues and he voiced concern that community groups should not be disadvantaged during the move. He also advised that in regard to the Moray Music Centre that parking should not prevent it being used.

In response to Members concerns the Educational Resource Manager advised that they had managed to secure alternative accommodation for the 'Out of Darkness Theatre' and they were positive that they could resolve the accommodation need for the regular 'tea dance' users. In regard to Planning application for this 'B' listed building he advised that the alterations planned were minor and he did not envisage any planning problems.

In response to the financial issues the Head of Educational Resource Services clarified that the figures referred to in the report are currently spent on external venues and advised that there would still be a need for external accommodation as not all training could be carried out in-house. The aim was to reduce costs.

The Director of Educational Services advised that the issues of accommodation is recognised Council wide and that the first priority is to look in-house and use council facilities and that there were very often good reasons to use external venues e.g. venues not available.

Councillor Young advised that Community Groups using the Town Hall facilities over the Christmas period acknowledged the good work of the department.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the alterations being made to the Supper Room at Elgin Town Hall to enable it to operate as a Council training and meeting venue during the daytime on weekdays; and
- (ii) note that the conversion will take place no sooner than August 2008 in order to provided a time period for existing daytime users to find alternative accommodation.

37. LONG JUMP FACILITY KNOCKANDO SCHOOL, KNOCKANDO

There was submitted a report by the Head of Estates Services asking the Committee to approve a 20 year lease of an area of ground as shown outlined and hatched black in the plan attached to Appendix 1 of the report to Knockando Athletic Group.

Councillor Paul advised the meeting that this was a very successful group and she welcomed the report and felt that it was a pound well spent.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to authorise the Principal Solicitor (Commercial & Conveyancing) to conclude the lease of the long jump facility at Knockando School to Knockando Athletic Group on the terms outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

38. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The meeting unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Order 66 in order to conclude the business of Agenda Item 35 before adjourning for lunch.

39. NOTICE OF MOTION

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Russell in the following terms:-

“That the Moray Council, in its discussions on the future capital plans, looks to progress moves to develop extra sports facilities at Elgin High School, which will be of a benefit to the entire Moray Community”.

Thereafter, Councillor Ross seconded by Councillor Russell moved acceptance of the Motion that ‘the Moray Council in its discussions on the future capital plans, looks to progress moves to develop extra sports facilities at Elgin High School, which will be of a benefit to the entire Moray community.’

As an amendment, Councillor Leadbitter supported by Councillor Jarvis moved that the term extra sports facilities was very vague and moved that the Educational Services Committee refer to the appropriate Committee in its discussions on future capital plans looks to progress moves to develop regional sports facilities adjacent to Elgin High School which will be of a benefit to the entire Moray Community.

As an amendment Councillor Murdoch moved that any resources available for sports facilities should be distributed equally and failing to find a seconder the Amendment fell.

Councillor Ross offered, with the agreement of his seconder, to amend his motion in line with the amendments moved by Councillor Leadbitter.

In response to concerns raised the Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing) clarified the position and advised that it was competent for Councillor Ross to amend his Motion in this manner.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed that the Education and Social Services Committee recommend to the appropriate Committee that the Moray Council, in its discussions on the future capital plans, looks to progress moves to develop regional sports facilities adjacent to Elgin High School which will be of a benefit to the entire Moray Community.

Adjournment of Meeting

The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 13:16 and reconvened at 2.00pm.

Resumption of Meeting

The Meeting resumed at 2:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors J Hamilton (Joint Chair : Education & Young People), L Bell (Joint Chair : Health & Social Care), G Coull, J Cree, J Hogg, B Jarvis, G Leadbitter, G McIntyre, A McDonald, G McDonald, E McGillivray, A McKay, F Murdoch, I Ogilvie, P Paul, D Ross, J Russell, M Shand, R Shepherd, D Stewart, A Wright and I Young.

APOLOGIES

Councillors J Divers, J MacKay, M McConachie, Mrs A R MacLennan, Rev C M Stewart, Rev G Swanson (Religious Representatives), Miss F Wardhaugh, Mrs S Slater and Laura Young (Pupil Representative)

40. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Paul asked it was possible to have a breakdown of all after school clubs/breakfast clubs by no later than 21 February 2008.

Councillor Ross, also asked if this information could be circulated to all Members as it would be beneficial to all wards.

The Director of Educational Services agreed to provide information to all Members and gave an assurance that Councillor Paul would have this information by the 21 February 2008.

41. Chair

Councillor L Bell, Joint Chair (Health & Social Care) took the Chair in respect of the Health & Social Care section of business on the Agenda.

42. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Meeting noted that there were no written questions.

43. SOCIAL WORK REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2007/08

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the current position of the Social Services Revenue and Capital budgets.

The meeting noted the small underspend in the staff training budget, the ring fenced monies for learning disability, challenge project and Telecare.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor G McDonald regarding ring-fenced monies the Director of Community Services and Lorraine Paisey, Senior Accountant clarified the position and advised that this underspend was due to the lead in time taken for the Challenging Behaviour Project and that the issue of ring-fenced monies was misleading as these monies had been ring fenced by the Local Authority for 'Challenging Behaviour', although it was anticipated that this money would not be spent this financial year and this had been recognised and accounted for in the budget papers.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the position of the revenue budget for Social Work as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to note the position of the capital programme for Social Work for 2007/08 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (iii) that the Director of Community Services would submit a report to Members on the work of the Community Service Scheme.

44. MORAY COUNCIL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the range and nature of work undertaken by the Moray Council Criminal Justice Service, of disposals available to courts and current and future developments that will affect Criminal Justice Services both locally and nationally.

The Director of Community Services advised that this report had originated following a request from Councillors Cree & Ross for more information on the range of work undertaken by the Criminal Justice Service.

In response to a request from Members for information on the work of the Community Service Scheme the Director of Community Services advised that he would make this information the subject of a report.

Thereafter the Committee noted the report.

45. COMMUNITY CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Performance Indicators for Community Care for the quarter, 1st October to 31st December 2007, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor G McDonald about the lack of information to gauge where the trends are the Director of Community Services and the Lead System Manager advised the meeting that there were genuine data collection issues and that procedures for data collection were currently being reviewed.

Thereafter, the Committee noted and approved the performance information and targets contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

46. COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Complaints Monitoring information for Community Care and Children, Families & Criminal Justice Services, for the quarter, 1st October to 31st December 2007, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Director of Community Services issued a health warning by way of advising that the new complaints programme was being rolled out to staff and this would strengthen the procedure. He further advised that the information in the report had been collated from the pre-existing system and that the number of complaints recorded would inevitably increase over time.

Thereafter the Committee noted the information contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

47. COMMUNITY SERVICES SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-08, MONITORING REPORT, THIRD QUARTER, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Department's performance against the Service Development & Improvement Plan 2007-08 for the quarter, 1st October to 31st December 2007, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

In response, to concerns expressed by Councillor G McDonald about data sharing within Moray and across Grampian, the Director of Community Services advised that there had been delays with Pan Grampian developments due to staffing changes.

During discussion the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice Services agreed to provide a noting report to Members on the 'Realist' evaluation project.

Following consideration the Committee noted the performance against the Service Development Improvement Plan 2007/08 detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

48. EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT MONITORING 2007/08

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services updating the Committee on the Council's Efficient Government Agenda as it affects Community Services and outlines how actions will be progressed and reported.

49. CELEBRATING SUCCESS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services sharing with the Committee some of the successes and positive developments within Community Services in recent months.

50. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Jarvis, sought clarification on what guidance if any had been produced for Community Service following the McPhail Ruling announced last year and the implications of the situation should the you choose to go down route 1 for a service.

In response the Lead Systems Officer advised that they had looked at the ruling and felt that their practice did not require to be changed as they were complying with the terms of the ruling.