

THE MORAY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2009
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors J Hamilton (Chairman), A McKay (Depute), G Coull, J Hogg, A McDonald, E McGillivray, I Ogilvie, D Ross, J Russell, M Shand, Rev C M Stewart and Rev G Swanson (Religious Representatives), Mrs S Slater (Secondary Representative), and Councillor A Wright (Ex- Officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Community Services, the Director of Educational Services, the Head of Educational Resource Services, the Head of Educational Development Services, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services, the Sports Development Officer, Mr J Gibson, Mrs S Duffus, Quality Improvement Officers, Ms A Hannah, Project Officer, Mrs J Gordon, the Placement Services Manager, Mr A Oliver, PPP Project Officer, Mrs D Brands, Principal Accountant, Mr A Stobie, the Acting Principal Solicitor, Legal Officer, the Public Relations Co-ordinator, Mr J Akehurst, Performance and Strategy Manager, Mr D Westmacott, Apprentice Committee Services 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, M McConachie, I Young, Mrs A R MacLennan, Mrs F Wardhaugh (Primary Representative),) Miss F Jagger (Pupil Representative), and Councillor G McIntyre (Ex-Officio).

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS

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 nor any declarations of Members' Interest in respect of any Item on the Agenda.

2. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Para No of Minute

28

Para No of Schedule 7A

9

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of Minute of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 8 October 2008 in regard to School Attainment 2007/08 and the decision that an Action Plan to improve our performance in higherers be reported for consideration at the earliest opportunity, the Meeting noted the undernoted written question submitted by Councillor Hogg and the response thereto:

Councillor Hogg asked that recognising that (a) nearly 14 months have elapsed since the Committee's decision (b) it is understood that a draft report was completed by Officers in April 2009 and (c) there have been various discussions between the Director, the Committee Chairman, and myself on the subject, including a verbal question to Committee, could Committee please be advised:

- (1) of any operational or other impediment to bringing this report to Committee?
- (2) when Committee might have the opportunity to consider this report?

The Director of Educational Services advised that there were no operational or other impediment to bringing this report to Committee and a paper would be presented to the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee on the 17 February 2010.

In response to the written question submitted by Councillor Ross asking what the implications for the Mosstodloch Primary School refurbishment were given the unsuccessful bid for the school to be included in the Scottish Government School rebuilding programme the Director of Educational Services advised that in planning for the capital programme 2010 to 2015 it was anticipated that possibly only one of the two schools put forward for funding from the Scottish Government School Investment Programme might be successful. As a consequence the department's submission for the capital programme includes an allocation for refurbishment works at primary schools and Mosstodloch will be a priority project for this.

There were no supplementary questions from Councillors Hogg or Ross

4. WELCOME

The Chair on behalf of the Committee welcomed Mr A Stobie, Acting Principal Solicitor (Litigation & Licensing) to his first meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee.

5. PRESENTATION BY YOUNG CARERS

The meeting noted a moving presentation from four young carers encapsulating their fears, hopes and wishes for the future.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the young carers for their presentation.

6. SERVICES TO YOUNG CARERS IN MORAY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services appraising the Committee of services currently being provided to young carers in Moray.

In response to a question with regard to guidelines for janitors in schools, the Director of Educational Services agreed to look into the issue and provide a response to Elected Members.

In response to a question relating to complimentary approaches to working with young carers in schools and in particular with reference to what the alternatives were to drop-in sessions in schools, the Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice advised that he was not aware of the other approaches and agreed to look into the alternatives and provide Elected Members with a response.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the progress being made with regard to the delivery of services to young carers and challenges in relation to further progress.

7. PHASED ENTRY TO PRIMARY 1

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services seeking Committee approval for a revised policy and procedure regarding phased entry to Primary 1 classes.

Following consideration the Committee approved the revised policy and procedure for phased entry to Primary 1 with effect from August 2010 as detailed in the report.

8. ADOPTION ALLOWANCE SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services seeking Committee's approval to establish a new Adoption Allowance Scheme for Moray in terms of the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act 2007.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to establish a new Adoption Allowance Scheme for Moray as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

9. CURATORS AD LITEM AND REPORTING OFFICERS

There was submitted a joint report by the Director of Community Services and the Chief Legal Officer seeking approval to increase the standard fees paid to Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officers and to take forward a proposal for Moray Curators and Reporting Officers to form a joint panel with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) fix the fees for Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officers for 2010/11 as laid out in Section 4(c) of the report subject to additional budget being made available through the Council's budget-setting process for 2010/11; and
- (ii) the establishment of a joint Curators ad Litem & Reporting Officers Panel with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City subject to the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations on this matter.

10. PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY AND OCCUPANCY

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services informing the Committee of the Primary School Functional Capacities and Occupancy for session 2009/10.

11. EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETS 2009/10

There was submitted and noted a joint Report by the Directors of Educational and Community Services informing the Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational and Community Services for 2009/10.

12. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing the Committee with a summary statement for the Educational Services Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

13. SINGLETON INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES - PUBLISHED REPORTS FROM OCTOBER 2009 TO NOVEMBER 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services on the singleton inspections of pre-school centres by the Care Commission published between October 2009 and November 2009 in respect of:

Findochty Primary School Nursery, Findochty
 Garmouth & Kingston Pre-school Group, Garmouth
 Keith Play Centre Ltd, Keith
 Kinloss Primary School Nursery, Kinloss
 Milbank Primary School Nursery, Buckie
 Portgordon Primary School Nursery, Portgordon
 Portknockie Nursery, Portknockie
 St. Gerardine Primary School Nursery, Lossiemouth
 St. Thomas RC Primary School Nursery, Keith.

14. HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTIONS - MORAY COUNCIL FOLLOW-THROUGH REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to note the most recent report published by Moray Council Educational Services in respect of Craigellachie Primary School.

15. HMI ESCHOOL INSPECTIONS - PUBLISHED REPORTS SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2009

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to note the most recent reports published following inspections by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of schools and nursery classes in Moray in respect of:

- (i) Inspection of Elgin Academy - Appendix 1
- (ii) Follow-through inspection of Milne's High School - Appendix 2
- (iii) Follow-through Inspection of Portessie Primary School - Appendix 3

During discussion members welcomed that an action plan would be forthcoming for Elgin Academy to the February meeting of this Committee and that a follow up report on progress would be submitted to Committee in June prior to the follow up inspection by HMIE.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the report.

16. INTERIM FOLLOW THROUGH REPORT ON CLUNY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ST PETER'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services advising the Committee of the progress being made in response to the action points raised in the HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in respect of Cluny Primary School and St Peter's RC Primary School as detailed in Appendices 1 & 2 of the report.

17. PROGRESS UPDATE AGAINST SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACTIONS FOR PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009 AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2009

There was submitted a report by the Director of Educational Services updating the Committee on Progress against the Educational Services, Service Improvement Plan 2009-10 and performance against Service Outcome and Service Standard indicators.

During discussion, following a request from Elected Members that consideration be given to providing a fresh set of performance indicators that relate to HMIE inspections and the Moray Council inspections, the Director of Educational Services advised that Educational Services reported performance on service outcomes, which had recently been approved by Elected Members and he was of the opinion that to change the way performance is reported would require further discussion beyond this Committee and it was agreed that he discuss this issue with the Chief Executive and also to clarify the role of Officers and Elected Members.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the progress made against the Service Improvement Plan for the period July to September 2009;
- (ii) the performance against Service Outcome and Service Standard Indicators for the period April to September 2009; and
- (iii) Approve the format of the performance indicator report.

18. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PPP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services providing the Committee with a summary statement for the PPP Budget as at 30 September 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

19. MONITORING REPORT: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to consider the details of complaints received during the period 1 July to 30 September 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

20. INSTITUTE OF SPORT, PARKS AND LEISURE (ISPAL) HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, AUGUST 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to scrutinise and note the recent report published following the assessment visit of the Sports Development section by Quality Leisure Management Ltd (QLM) as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee recognised the good work and congratulated the Officers on their achievements.

21. CHILDREN & FAMILIES PERFORMANCE REPORT, SECOND QUARTER, JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Performance Indicators for the Children and Families Service for the quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2009, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

22. CHILDREN & FAMILIES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the position at 30 September 2009 regarding the Children & Families revenue budget as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

23. COMMUNITY SERVICES SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009-10, MONITORING REPORT, SECOND QUARTER, JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Department's performance against the Service Development & Improvement Plan 2009-10 for the quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2009, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

24. COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT, SECOND QUARTER, JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to scrutinise the Complaints Monitoring information for Children and, Families Services, for the quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2009, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

25. OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PACKAGES

There was submitted a joint report by the Directors of Community & Educational Services providing the Committee with background information on out of area placements and additional resource packages for children and young people with exceptional needs.

During discussion, Councillor Wright requested a meeting with the Chairs of Policy and Resources, Children and Young People and Health & Social Care Services outwith this meeting to revisit the financial implications.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the information provided on out of area placements and additional resource packages;
- (ii) to receive twice-yearly follow-up reports; and
- (iii) that a meeting of the Chairs of Policy and Resources, Children & Young People's Services and Health and Social Services be arranged outwith this Committee.

26. CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE - UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services asking the Committee to note the update on Curriculum for Excellence in Moray.

27. OPEN ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Educational Services updating the Committee with regard to the implementation of the policy on access to school grounds.

28. CO-LOCATED CHILD PROTECTION UNIT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the development of the Co-Located Child Protection Unit and seeking permission to go to tender in order to further progress the project.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the progress to date on the Co-Located Child Protection Unit; and
- (ii) that the project be tendered and accepted if within agreed budget.

29. QUESTION TIME

In response to a Question from Councillor A McKay with regard to type 1 Diabetes and the Council's policy on the administering of injections, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services advised that staff can volunteer to do the injections, however no member of staff can be instructed to do this. He further advised that the Department had contacted NHS and the Community Nurse had agreed to attend the schools during lunch times to administer injections.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross asking about the policy on diabetes and what the National Guidance from the Scottish Parliament is, the Acting Head of Educational Support Services advised that the national guidance is used in Moray however, Fife Council operates a different policy and they have a person who administers injections as part of their job.

30. OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCE PACKAGES (PARA 9)

There was submitted and noted as previously discussed and agreed at paragraph 25 of this Minute, a joint report by the Directors of Community and Educational Services providing the Committee with the detailed background on out of area placements and additional resources packages for children and young people with exceptional needs.