

## Committee Minutes

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# Education, Children and Families Committee

Edinburgh, 9 October 2012

**Present:-** Councillors Godzik (Convener), Key (Vice-Convener), Brock, Child, N Cook, Corbett, Day, Dixon, Fullerton, Jackson, Lewis, Lunn (substituting for Councillor Keil), Main, Munro (substituting for Councillor Austin Hart), Redpath, Rose and Shields.

**Present for Education Items:-** Ms M Allan, Mr A Crosbie, Mr A C Duncan and Mr R Simpson.

**Also in Attendance:-** Councillors Bridgman and Walker.

### 1 Minute

#### Decision

The minute of meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 21 June 2012 was approved as a correct record.

### 2 Arboretum Road, Pavilion and Playing Field – Response to Motion by Councillor Hinds

In response to a motion by Councillor Hinds, approval was sought to explore the scope to grant a long lease of the Council-owned playing field at Arboretum Road to the Merchant Company Education Board, linked to a Partnership Agreement with Stewart's Melville College.

A Partnership arrangement with Stewart's Melville College would provide an opportunity to secure substantial investment in sports facilities that would benefit Children and Families, the College and the wider sports community. Linking the proposed lease to the Partnership Agreement would safeguard the Council's interests and provide continuity for the sports clubs currently based at Arboretum Road.

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### **Decision**

- 1) To approve, in principle, that a Partnership Agreement with Stewart's Melville College be explored to deliver improved sports facilities at Arboretum Road for the Council and the College.
- 2) That the lease contain provisions for review and, if necessary, termination should the Partnership Agreement be terminated or significantly altered.
- 3) That local elected members be fully consulted and updated on continuing discussions with Stewart's Melville College.
- 4) To note that provisional terms and conditions for the proposed lease would be reported to the Finance and Budget Committee for approval.

(References – minute of Education, Children and Families Committee of 21 June 2012 (item 3); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **3 Parental Engagement**

Details were given of a proposed new Parental Engagement Strategy for more effective consultation between the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCWP), Parent Councils, Council officers and elected members

#### **Motion**

- 1) To note the content of the report.
- 2) To agree the proposal for a new structure for more effective consultation between the Consultative Committee with Parents, Parent Councils, Council officers and elected members for a period of one year, with a review to assess its effectiveness and impact on parent engagement and the extent to which the neighbourhoods proposed were meaningful for the purposes of parental engagement.
- 3) To request a further report on the Strategy and Strategy Action and Implementation Plan in January 2013 detailing:
  - a) clear outcomes for the strategy to allow its effectiveness to be objectively assessed;
  - b) specific commitments on how central support to Parent Councils would be developed and delivered; and

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- c) development of specific tools by which schools could improve continuous feedback to parents
- 4) To thank officers and parents for their input to the strategy document.
  - moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Key

#### **Amendment**

To approve the recommendations detailed in the report by the Director of Children and Families, subject to keeping representatives of the existing cluster groups on the Consultative Committee with Parents rather than representatives of the proposed neighbourhood groups.

- moved by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Rose

#### **Voting**

For the motion - 16 votes  
For the amendment - 3 votes

#### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **4 Positive Destinations**

Details were given of progress towards improving school leaver destinations, based on the annual census carried out by Skills Development Scotland.

Positive destinations for 2010/2011 showed a 3.4% improvement on the previous year and the gap between Edinburgh and the national average had been steadily narrowing and now stood at -0.7%.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To note the report and the progress made.
- 2) To request a further report on progress in improving positive destinations from the Director of Children and Families at the next school leaver destination census in January 2013.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Redpath declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as a freelance adult education tutor.

## **5 Primary School Estate Rising Rolls: Implications for 2013/14 Session**

Details were given of the context of rising school rolls in the primary sector, identifying the anticipated need for accommodation solutions for Balgreen, Granton, Trinity, Victoria and Wardie Primary Schools for the 2013/14 academic session.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the content of the report.
- 2) To approve that new accommodation be provided at the following primary schools subject to a final decision being taken in January 2013, delegated to the Director of Children and Families, regarding the necessity for such provision following assessment of pupil registration figures:
  - Balgreen
  - Granton
  - Trinity
  - Victoria
  - Wardie
- 3) To approve that further long-term policy development regarding the estate be considered by the Sub-Committee of the Education, Children and Families Committee proposed under the new Committee structure. Further, to note that the Sub-Committee would look at future long-term requirements of schools, as outlined within the Capital Coalition partnership agreement, including reviewing the issues identified at paragraph 3.43 of the report by the Director of Children and Families.
- 4) To note that the principles outlined in the Director's report would apply to future schools identified as requiring accommodation solutions in future years.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **6 Castlebrae Community High School: Consultation on Option for Closure**

### **6.1 Deputations**

#### **a) Craigmillar Community Council**

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Terry Tweed, Secretary of the Craigmillar Community Council and Peter McColl, member of Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership. The deputation made the following points:-

- Castlebrae Community High School had been allowed to deteriorate in the past few years and concern had been expressed locally that this school that served the wider community had been deliberately run down to the point where the only option was closure.
- The effect on the local community if the decision was made to close the School would be widespread and would be detrimental firstly to the students and to the wider community who used the School for a variety of purposes.
- Rather than closure, the school should receive further investment to keep it open until a new school could be built to serve the wider Craigmillar area.

The deputation then answered questions from Committee members.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Director of Children and Families at item 6.3 below.

#### **b) Save the Brae**

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Honor Flynn, Nikki Barnes and Marylee Watters, all representing the Save the Brae campaign. The deputation made the following points:-

- No mention had been made in the report of the proposals for addressing the requirements of children with special and learning needs.
- A pledge made by politicians that no further schools in the city would be closed had been broken.

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- The Family Centre based at the School was an important resource in allowing children aged 0-5 years to be cared for while parents attended medical and other appointments.
- The School provided an opportunity for all ethnic, religious and gender groups to meet in a safe environment and provided support for vulnerable families.
- There was concern that pupils felt intimidated about a move to other secondary schools in the area, on the basis of evidence of alleged bullying at Portobello High School.
- Students from schools across the city attended the School for vocational education, including hair and beauty, childcare, drama and construction and this valuable resource would be lost if the school were to close.
- The report did not acknowledge the contribution the School made to the community and contained a number of errors.

The deputation then answered questions from Committee members.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Director of Children and Families at item 6.2 below.

## **6.2 Report by the Director of Children and Families**

Details were given of the proposal to carry out consultation on an option for closure of Castlebrae Community High School.

Approval was sought to consult on the proposed closure of Castlebrae from the end of the 2012/13 school year, together with required changes to secondary school catchment areas.

Councillor Walker was heard as a local ward member.

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**Motion**

- a) To approve that statutory consultation is carried out on the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School as detailed in the report by the Director of Children and Families with the exception that, rather than a *dual-catchment* arrangement being applied for pupils from the Castleview, Niddrie Mill and Newcraighall Primary School catchment areas together with the area of land shown in Appendices 4 and 5 for which there is currently no designated non-denominational secondary school catchment, that Portobello High School be allocated as the sole non-denominational secondary catchment school for these areas;

To further approve that in the event that there should be insufficient capacity within Portobello High School, placing requests from pupils from the proposed new Portobello High School catchment area, including pupils from the Castleview, Niddrie Mill and Newcraighall Primary School catchment areas, would have priority access to any secondary school in the city;

- b) To approve that the statutory consultation includes any related secondary school catchment changes arising from the proposals;
- c) To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a detailed consultation paper on the basis of the proposals outlined in the report;
- d) To approve that the statutory consultation be undertaken to commence on 25 October 2012, once schools resume from the mid-term break;
- e) To note that it is the intention to return to a future meeting of Full Council for a decision on the proposal;
- f) To note that the proposal would require Scottish Ministerial approval prior to implementation, should the Council decide to proceed;
- g) To note that, in the longer term, it remained the expectation and intention to build a new high school to serve the Craigmillar area;
- h) To note that the use to which any revenue cost savings that would arise as a result of any proposed closure would be considered as part of the Council budget setting process;
- i) To note that the wider Craigmillar community including local Community Councils and Neighbourhood Partnerships would be included in the consultation exercise;

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- j) That consideration be given to using any revenue cost savings that would arise as a result of the proposed closure for investment in Craigmillar and the pupils of Castlebrae Community High School; and
  - k) To make explicit that that the Capital Coalition would not close any further primary or secondary school, for the remainder of the 2012-17 term.
- moved by Councillor Godzik, seconded by Councillor Key

**Amendment 1 (by Councillor Rose, originally remitted from Council of 20 September 2012)**

“Committee:-

1. notes that the administration had indicated an intention to close Castlebrae Community High School;
2. notes that the 2010-12 inspection process and reports gave cause for considerable concern;
3. notes that concerns about educational achievement and attainment at Castlebrae have existed for many years;
4. notes that the administration wishes to explore Co-operative and other ways of delivering education;
5. notes the existence of examples of successful education delivery elsewhere including;
  - a. Co-operative sponsored school including around 200 in England and Wales and the Elmgreen Co-operative School in Lambeth.
  - b. Co-operative schools in Sweden.
  - c. Ark Schools and Harris Federation schools, both of which have a promising track record in turning round poorly performing schools.
  - d. Teach First, a charity which recruits exceptional graduates into teaching and specialises in contributing to schools in challenging circumstances which experience high levels of poverty or under-achievement.
  - e. Future Leaders, a charity which focuses on developing the next generation of leaders for challenging schools.

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6. Resolves to set up a working party to investigate and report on these examples and other innovative types of education delivery which could have a role at Castlebrae Community High School, or in other parts of Edinburgh's education system where there is limited attainment.
  - 7 Resolves that the working party report back to the Education, Children and Families Committee by the end of March 2013."
- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Nick Cook

### **Amendment 2**

To note the report by the Director of Children and Families but delay further action until: a course of action and timeline for rebuilding Portobello High School is clear; there is greater clarity about funding for and timing of a new school in Craigmillar; and there is firm evidence from previous and other school closures that the individual young people will have better outcomes than if they had remained at the original school.

- moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Corbett

### **Voting**

For the motion	-	13 votes
For amendment 1	-	3 votes
For amendment 2	-	3 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Godzik.

(References – Act of Council No.15, 20 September 2012; report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **7 Chair**

Councillor Key replaced Councillor Godzik in the Chair for the following item of business.

## **8 Vision for Schools in Edinburgh**

Information was provided on the draft Children and Families vision for schools in Edinburgh and the Committee's engagement in developing its content was requested.

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**Decision**

- 1) To note the report which was based on Head Teachers' contribution to the vision for schools.
- 2) To ask officers to develop appropriate consultation materials and consult widely on a vision for schools in Edinburgh.
- 3) To note that Committee members would contribute to the development of the Council's vision for schools as part of the consultation process.
- 4) That the consultation exercise be genuinely open-ended and to seek equal contribution from parents, young people, teachers and other staff, community partners, elected members and those with an interest in the future of the Council's schools.
- 5) To refer the report to the Committee's new Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee for further consideration.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**9 Chair**

Councillor Godzik resumed the chair for the remaining items of business.

**10 Children and Families Department Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13 Month Four Position – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012**

Details were presented of the month four revenue monitoring position for the Children and Families Department.

**Decision**

To note the report and the projected balanced budget position for the Children and Families Department at month four.

(Reference – joint report by the Directors of Corporate Governance and Children and Families, submitted.)

**11 Community Access to Schools**

Approval was sought for the initial work identified within the scope of the Review of Community Access to Schools.

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### **Decision**

- 1) To note that the outcome of the review should be a system which maximises the appropriate use of schools outside of core school hours and in a way which embeds schools fully as community assets; and to do so in a way which is cost-effective and efficient.
- 2) That a short-life project team be formed to take forward the review of Community Access to Schools without prejudice as to the system recommended.
- 3) That the project team undertake the work agreed within the scope.
- 4) That all stakeholders be engaged and consulted with at key stages of development.
- 5) That the work of the short-life project team be completed in the New Year and reported to Committee in two cycles i.e. 5 March 2013.
- 6) That an update be provided on the progress of the short life project team to Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2012.
- 7) That all reports on Community Access to Schools be referred to the Culture and Leisure (Culture and Sport under the new Governance Review arrangements) Committee for noting.
- 8) That Community Access to Schools be added to the agenda of the first Education, Children and Families Policy Review and Development Sub-Committee meeting.

(References – minute of Education, Children and Families Committee 21 June 2011 (item 5); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **12 Co-operative Education and Childcare**

Details were given of the progress to date of the Co-operative Education Working Group, which had been established to examine ways of taking forward childcare co-operatives and co-operative education in the city.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the work to date and request a further report in January 2013.
- 2) To request the arrangement of a half-day event with senior officials and elected members to look at opportunities and options for co-operative approaches within schools.

- 3) That a briefing note be issued to all members of the Committee on co-operative education and learning.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **13 Special Schools: Proposals for the Future Development of Panmure St Ann's**

Approval was sought for a statutory consultation to be held on establishing Panmure St Ann's as a school and for the provision of additional stages of learning. It was proposed to commence the consultation on 26 November 2012.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To approve that statutory consultation be carried out proposing the confirmation of Panmure St Ann's as a school and increased provision of additional stages in Panmure St Ann's.
- 2) To note that through the consultation process the status of Panmure St Ann's would be established as a school.
- 3) To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop detailed consultation on the option of confirming Panmure St Ann's as a school and the provision of additional stages of learning.
- 4) To note the intention to return to the May 2013 meeting of the Council for a decision on the proposals.
- 5) To approve the steps in the consultation process as set out in Appendix 1 to the Director's report.
- 6) That a briefing be provided to all members of the Committee on the work of Panmure St Ann's.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **14 Naming of New Gaelic Medium Primary School**

Details were given of the process used for choosing the name of the new Gaelic medium primary school sited in the former Bonnington Primary School building in Bonnington Road.

**Decision**

- 1) To approve the name of the new school chosen by the pupils as 'Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce' - Parkside Primary School.
- 2) That paragraph 3.4 of the Director's report be amended to read "The name chosen by the pupils is Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce which is Parkside Primary School translated into English."

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**15 Appointment to Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families (South West)**

**Decision**

To appoint Councillor Key to the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families (South West) in place of Councillor Dixon.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

**16 Response to Scottish Government on the Children and Young People Bill Consultation**

Details were given of the response to the consultation on the Children and Young People Bill, scheduled for introduction to Parliament in 2013.

The views of elected members were sought and incorporated in the response before the submission deadline of 25 September.

**Decision**

To note the response on the consultation on the Children and Young People Bill.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**17 Social Work Services for Children with Disabilities**

Details were given of progress made in the service area for children with disabilities.

**Decision**

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**18 Family and Community Support Division – Update**

Details were given of the Family and Community Support Division, including its component services.

**Decision**

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To congratulate the staff and managers in the Family and Community Support Division on the achievement of the Customer Service Excellence Award.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**19 Performance Report: Special Schools**

Details of the performance of the City of Edinburgh's special schools was provided, including information on the developments in evaluating performance in special schools and the provision of a baseline evaluation of performance within and across special schools, for future reporting to Council

**Decision**

To note the progress being made in improving performance in special schools and the intention to report on further progress in one year.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**20 Annual Review of Service Strategy for Children and Young People Looked After and Accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council**

Details were given of the review of service provision for children looked-after and accommodated by the City of Edinburgh Council and the introduction of a range of associated service area improvement plans.

**Decision**

To note the amended service strategy and improvement plan for looked after and accommodated young people.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**21 Children and Families Standards and Quality Report 2012**

Details were given of the Children and Families Standards and Quality Report 2012 and a summary provided of progress towards the outcomes detailed in the Children and Families Service Plan 2011-2014.

**Decision**

- 1) To note the improved and maintained performance during the reporting period.
- 2) To note the areas identified for further improvement.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

**22 Edinburgh Children's Partnership's Integrated Plan for Children and Young People 2012-15****Decision**

To note the Edinburgh Children's Partnership's Integrated Plan for Children and Young People 2012-15.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **23 Getting It Right for Every Child**

An update was provided on the implementation of the “Getting it Right for Every Child” national programme within the City of Edinburgh.

#### **Decision**

To note the implementation to date and to request a further progress report in 12 months.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **24 Self-Evaluation Progress Report**

Progress and developments in self-evaluation and team planning in the education and centrally-based services of Children and Families was detailed.

#### **Decision**

To note the report and to request an update in one year.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

### **25 Inspection of Children’s Services**

Details were given of a forthcoming pilot inspection of services for children in Edinburgh which would examine how well public services worked together to improve outcomes for children, especially those in need.

#### **Decision**

To note the content of the report and that a report on the inspection findings would be provided in due course.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **26 Relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School**

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the action taken by the Director of Children and Families, in consultation with the Convener, in terms of Standing Order 63, to start the consultation process for the relocation of Pilrig Child and Family Centre to Craigentenny Primary School to ensure sufficient time for implementation of the move by August 2013.
- 2) To note the exceptional work of the staff and parents in turning around the fortunes of Craigentenny Primary School and to note that relocating the Child and Family Centre was a massive vote of confidence in the school.

(Reference – report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)

## **27 Raymond Simpson – Valedictory**

The Convener advised that Raymond Simpson was standing down from his role as teacher representative on the Committee with effect from 19 October 2012.

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Raymond for his many years' service to this and associated Committees and wished him well for the future.