

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE –  
REMOTE MEETING**

28th January, 2022

2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Craig Walker (Convener), James Calder, Bobby Clelland, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen (substituting for Councillor Ford), Gary Guichan, Andy Heer, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Ross Paterson, Fay Sinclair, Alistair Suttie, Mr. Alastair Crockett, Mr. George Haggarty and Mr. William Imlay.

**ATTENDING:** Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director - Education & Children's Services, Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support), Rona Weir, Education Manager, Jackie Funnell, Education Manager, Angela Logue, Head of Education & Children's Services (Primary Schools & Improvement) and Gavin Waterston, Quality Improvement Officer, Education & Children's Services; Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Emma Whyte, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**ALSO  
ATTENDING:** Joyce Tomlinson, Director of Public Health, NHS Fife.

**239. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

**240. MINUTE**

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 9th November, 2021.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**241. MINUTES OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE**

The Sub-Committee considered the minutes of meetings of the Education Appointment Committee of 26th October and 24th November, 2021.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the minutes.

**242. NATIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING CENSUS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services informing of the arrangements in place for Fife Council to undertake the Scottish Government National Health and Wellbeing Census and to/

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to respond to the decision of Fife Council by providing information on the proposed content and processes associated with implementation, for decision.

*The meeting adjourned at 2.55 p.m. and reconvened at 3.10 p.m.*

### **Motion**

Councillor Leslie, seconded by Councillor Dempsey, moved as follows:-

“The Sub-Committee:-

Notes that it was the decision of the Fife Council to postpone Fife Council’s participation in the survey until the Education and Children Services Sub-Committee can consider a report on the survey covering the following matters: -

- (1) why this survey is necessary in Fife
- (2) what questions will be asked of which year groups in school
- (3) who will see any data collected
- (4) what use will be made of that data
- (5) what data protection measures will be in place

Notes that the report does not address satisfactorily why the survey is necessary.

Agrees that we should continue to postpone participation in the survey until a further report is provided to the committee (or its successor) by the Director of Education and Children’s Services which sets out an explanation for why each of the proposed questions is necessary to improve health and well-being.

Agrees that the collection of personal data for the uses described in the report should not be supported and that the survey should not collect or use any personal data for any purpose or use.”

### **Amendment 1**

Councillor Erskine, seconded by Councillor Law, moved as follows:-

“The Sub-Committee agrees:-

- (1) To continue to postpone the participation with the survey.
- (2) To refer the survey back to the Scottish Government to reconsider the approach to the collection of personal data so that complete confidentiality is ensured and no individual taking part in this census can be identified.
- (3) To ask the Scottish Government to review the appropriateness of all questions and in particular the sexual health section in light of parental and carer concerns.
- (4) To ask the Scottish Government to ensure that all questions are age appropriate.
- (5) The final version of the survey is provided to the Committee before it is issued to ensure that the Survey is necessary for Fife Council.”

### **Amendment/**

**Amendment 2**

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Liewald, moved as follows:-

“The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) Recognises that at its last meeting full council raised concerns about two aspects of this survey: i) data security, and the potential for individuals to be identified based on their candidate number; and ii) asking potentially sensitive questions about sexual health to individuals.
- (2) Agrees to remove the candidate number from the survey and replace with part postcode, gender and ethnicity.
- (3) Agrees to remove the section including questions on sexual health in its entirety.
- (4) Agrees to hold a workshop involving young adults to discuss and agree on the remaining questions in the survey, along with any amendments and bring a report back to the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee in March.”

Following considerable debate, Councillor Leslie advised that she had decided to withdraw her motion.

**Roll Call**

**For Amendment 1** – 10 votes

Councillors James Calder, Bobby Clelland, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Gary Guichan, Andy Heer, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Ross Paterson and Mr. George Haggarty.

**For Amendment 2** – 8 votes

Councillors Craig Walker, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, Rosemary Liewald, Fay Sinclair, Alistair Suttie, Mr. Alistair Crockett and Mr. William Imlay.

Amendment 1 was accordingly carried.

**Decision**

The Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to continue to postpone the participation with the survey;
- (2) to refer the survey back to the Scottish Government to reconsider the approach to the collection of personal data so that complete confidentiality is ensured and no individual taking part in this census can be identified;
- (3) to ask the Scottish Government to review the appropriateness of all questions and in particular the sexual health section in light of parental and carer concerns;
- (4) to ask the Scottish Government to ensure that all questions are age appropriate; and
- (5)/

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- (5) that the final version of the survey is provided to the Sub-Committee before it is issued to ensure that the survey is necessary for Fife Council.

### 243. INSPECTION OUTCOMES

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an overview of the outcomes and key messages from school/early learning centre improvement work and Care Inspectorate Inspections:

- Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools
- Care Inspectorate within the Early Learning Centres
- Care Inspectorate within Residential Provision
- Care Inspectorate within Out of School/Creche Provision

#### **Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the outcomes of the overview and areas of success and progress, as well as the actions being taken to ensure continued improvement.

### 244. EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee considered the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme.

#### **Decision**

The Sub-Committee noted the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme, subject to amendment as necessary.

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