

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

16th March, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

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

ATTENDING: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education & Children's Services; Kathy Henwood, Head of Education & Children's Services/Chief Social Work Officer; Maria Lloyd, Head of Education & Children's Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services; Angela Logue, Head of Education & Children's Services; Steven Eagleson, Improvement Officer Education & Children's Services; Michael Scanlin, Supervising Senior Practitioner, Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services; Stuart Booker, Improvement Officer, Education Service; Brian Scott, Directorate Solutions Manager, Business Technology Solutions; and Diane Barnett, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Julie Ford and Dominic Nolan.

199. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

200. MINUTE(S)

- (a) Minute of Meeting of Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 26th January, 2021

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 26th January, 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (b) Minutes of Meeting of the East Fife Education Trust Committee and the West Fife Education Trust Committee of 11th January, 2021

The Sub-Committee considered the minutes of meeting of the East Fife Education Trust Committee and the West Fife Education Trust Committee, of 11th January, 2021.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minutes of the East Fife Education Trust Committee and the West Fife Education Trust Committee, of 11th January, 2021.

201. PROPOSED STATUTORY CONSULTATION TO RELOCATE ST COLUMBA'S RC HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE EXISTING SCHOOL SITE AND TO RELOCATE WOODMILL HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE EXISTING SCHOOL SITE, TO A NEW SINGLE SITE, A SITE WHICH WILL ALSO ENCOMPASS A NEW FIFE COLLEGE CAMPUS

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services which presented the statutory Consultation Proposal, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, relating to the relocation of St Columba's RC High School from the existing school site of Woodmill Road, Dunfermline and to relocate Woodmill High School from the existing school site of Shields Road, Dunfermline, to a new single site south of Calaiswood Crescent, adjacent to Roe Deer Place, Dunfermline (former Shepherd Offshore site), a site which would also encompass a new Fife College campus, seeking approval of its content and approval to proceed to statutory consultation.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) approved the content of the statutory Consultation Proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 relating to the relocation of St Columba's RC High School and Woodmill High School to the proposed new site, at the former Shepherd Offshore Site, Dunfermline;
- (2) agreed to authorise Officers to proceed to statutory consultation in terms of the Consultation Proposal;
- (3) authorised Officers to make such amendments to the Consultation Proposal (including the timeline) as may be necessary; and
- (4) noted that the Consultation Report would be brought forward to a future Committee of the Council.

202. SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2022-2023, 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services which outlined the proposed schedule of terms, holidays and in-service training days, for school sessions 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

Decision

The Sub-Committee approved:-

- (1) the schedules recommended for school terms, holidays and in-service training/

training days for 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and

- (2) the amendment of the 2021/2022 schedule for school terms, holidays and in-service training days, to include the addition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday, in June 2022.

203. REPORT ON SENIOR PHASE OUTCOMES IN FIFE 2019-20

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services which provided an update on the educational outcomes of school leavers in Fife for the school year 2019/20, including data on the participation measures, positive destinations and the attainment of school leavers. The report also referenced the impact of COVID-19 on educational outcomes and positive destinations for Session 2019-20.

Additionally, the report detailed the Alternative Certification Model for SQA Qualifications for 2021 and the planning that is underway; and also referenced the current reform work in the areas of Employability and Attainment.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted:-

- (1) the participation and school leaver destination measures prior to COVID-19 and the issues faced as a result of COVID-19 for these measures going forward;
- (2) the strategies being implemented to improve positive destinations and senior phase outcomes, including some of the work done in reform areas to support improving positive destinations and outcomes for young people; and
- (3) progress in preparation for the Alternative Certification Model for SQA Qualifications for 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 12.00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12.10 p.m.

204. DIGITAL LEARNING STRATEGY AND DEVICE EQUITY

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services that informed members of the Directorate's current and future strategy to progress digital literacy and learning in schools and early learning centres. The report included plans to progress further Education's equity-based approach to the provision of digital devices to children and young people who have no or limited access to a device or the internet at home; and outlined options for longer term approaches to device distribution for future consideration.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) agreed the four priority areas for the ongoing development of the Digital Learning Culture strategy;
- (2) agreed the principles of the current equity-based approach to the provision of 1-1 digital devices to children and young people;
- (3) noted the significant challenges in procuring, allocating and distributing a large quantity of high-demand goods equitably and timeously;
- (4) acknowledged the options and the financial requirement of a long-term approach for providing access to digital devices in Fife; an equity-based approach or a broader 1-1 approach; and
- (5) agreed to convene a Working Group to take forward the Digital Learning Strategy with the aim of achieving a one to one digital device to pupil ratio.

205. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer in relation to the annual report on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the content of the report.

206. FIFE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services which provided an update on the work of Fife Corporate Parenting Board (FCPB) and developments planned to improve the Corporate Parenting agenda across Fife.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the intention of the Corporate Parenting Board to:-

- (1) ensure Care Experienced Children and Young People (CECYP) in Fife are supported, with the best offer from their 'corporate parents', to reach their full potential;
- (2) progress a 6-month period of intensive development work to inform the strategic plan and develop the narrative of expectation across all 'corporate parents' in Fife;
- (3) develop a more robust reporting schedule and communication strategy that better captures the voice and experience of those with lived experience and celebrates success; whilst holding to account the strategic areas/

areas in which we need to improve across the next 3 years, in line with local and national drivers; and

- (4) provide 6-monthly update/analysis reports to this Sub-Committee.

207. EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021

The Sub-Committee considered the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021, subject to amendment as necessary.

208. ANNUAL UPLIFT IN PAYMENTS TO FOSTER CARERS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services which provided information on the proposed uplift in payments to Foster Carers and Supported Lodging Carers.

Decision

The Sub-Committee approved:-

- (1) the application of a 2.5% increase in the maintenance payments made for children in a foster care and supported lodging setting; and
 - (2) the application of an uplift of 2.5% in the fees paid to Foster Carers including Supported Lodging Carers.
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