

THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

9th February, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Miklinski (Convener), Ian Cameron, Bill Connor, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Andy Heer, Zoe Hisbent, Kathleen Leslie, Carol Lindsay, Karen Marjoram, Lea McLelland, David Ross, Jonny Tepp and Sharon Green-Wilson (substituting for Ann Verner). Religious representatives George Haggarty and William Imlay.

ATTENDING: Fiona McKay, Divisional General Manager (Interim), Health and Social Care; Maria Lloyd, Head of Education and Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support), Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support), Suzanne McGuinness, Service Manager - Improving Outcomes, Adult Services, Elaine Law, Service Manager - Adults East, Adult Services, Deborah Davidson, Education Manager (GIRFEC), Gary Peattie, Team Manager - Childcare Services, Vivienne Sutherland, Principal Psychologist, Adam Brown, Depute Principal Psychologist and Alan Chalmers, Headteacher Supporting Learners' Service (West Area), Education Service; Tracy Hogg, Business Partner, Finance; Morag Ferguson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Helen Law, Fay Sinclair and Craig Walker (for para. 36).

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

33. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of 4th November, 2020.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

34./

34. PRESENTATION - CURRENT POSITION ON THROUGH LIFE SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR THOSE WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER IN FIFE

The Committee welcomed presentations on Autistic Spectrum Disorder from Charlene Tait, Deputy Chief Executive, Scottish Autism, Katy MacGregor, Disability Co-ordinator, Fife Council and Karen Brown, Carer, providing/

an in-depth view into aspects of living with Autism, caring for someone with Autism and the services and support mechanisms in place in Fife.

The presenters discussed their personal experience, challenges and provided suggestions on how to improve services and quality of life for those people living with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Fife.

Following detailed discussion, members asked a number of questions, which were subsequently answered by the presenters.

Decision

The Committee thanked Charlene Tait, Katy MacGregor and Karen Brown for their attendance at the meeting and for their valued contribution to the discussion.

35. CURRENT POSITION ON THROUGH LIFE SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR THOSE WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER IN FIFE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education and Children's Services providing the current position on the progress of the implementation of the Autism Strategy in Fife 2014 to 2024, to support people of all ages and abilities. The report outlined (1) the background to the Strategy, outlining the progress made since the implementation of the Strategy in 2014, (2) the gaps identified by authors of the report and (3) the proposed next steps required to continue to progress meeting the needs of the group and to introduce the new approach for neurodevelopmental pathways.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) considered the content of the report and agreed to advise the Manager, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services, on any areas identified for future reports or Elected Member briefings which would be added to the Forward Work Programme for the Committee;
- (2) agreed to delegate to the Head of Education and Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support) the proposed next steps in the report, which focused on establishing a Strategic oversight multi-agency group to progress priority areas;
- (3) agreed to delegate to the Head of Education and Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support) to submit a further report for its consideration in August 2021, providing an update on the progress made on the next steps and agreed priorities for March, 2022; and
- (4)/

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- (4) agreed that Lead Officers from the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee communicate with Conveners of Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee and Integration Joint Board to provide updates on progress and developments as they become available.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 12.10 p.m. and reconvened at 12.25 p.m.

Councillors Sinclair and Walker joined the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

36. CALL IN - DECISION TAKEN ON CHILDCARE SERVICES AND PLAY PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered a call-in requisition of the undernoted decision of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee held on 3rd November, 2020 in relation to a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services on Childcare Services and Play Practice Development. At the meeting on 3rd November, 2020, the Education and Children's Services Committee:-

- (1) noted the range of services operating before the COVID-19 closure of schools, early learning and childcare services;
- (2) noted the benefits of the proposals for change; and
- (3) agreed that Childcare Services progress the proposed next steps.

Councillor Sinclair, Convener of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee presented the case to the Scrutiny Committee, in support of the decision of the Sub-Committee. Councillor Sinclair believed there had been sufficient consultation and engagement with the affected communities and that the members of the Sub-Committee had the opportunity to consider all relevant information prior to making their decision.

Councillor Law, representing Councillor David Ross - the originator of the call-in requisition - expanded on the reasons for the call-in and presented the case to the Scrutiny Committee requesting that the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee revisit their decision of 3rd November, 2020.

A range of questions were asked and responded to, in relation to creche and nursery provision, breakfast clubs, food provision and budget allocation. There followed a full debate by members of the Committee to consider the issues raised.

Motion/

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Craik, moved as follows:-

'To/

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'To defer implementation of the new approach to Childcare Services and Play Practice and request further reports to the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee detailing:

- (1) the impact of these proposals on children and families and on disadvantaged communities;
- (2) options for maintaining or expanding these services to better meet needs and where possible increase income;
- (3) a full business plan for the future provision of childcare and play practice development.

In terms of Standing Order 12(5)(b), request the matter is referred to Council for final determination.'

Amendment

Councillor Marjoram, seconded by Councillor McLelland, moved to uphold the original decision of the Sub-Committee of 3rd November, 2020.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion - 7 votes

Councillors Cameron, Craik, Davidson, Heer, Miklinski, Ross and Tepp.

For the Amendent - 6 votes

Councillors Connor, Hisbent, Lindsay, Marjoram, McLelland and Green-Wilson.

Having received a majority of votes, the motion was carried.

Decision

The Committee agreed that the matter be referred to the next meeting of Fife Council on 25th February, 2021 for final determination.

37. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL MONITORING

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Director of Health and Social Care providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected out-turn for the 2020-21 financial year for areas in scope of the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the performance and activity to date, across the 2020-21 Financial Monitoring as detailed in the report.

Mr. George Haggarty left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

38./

38. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REVENUE MONITORING

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and Director of Health and Social Care highlighting the 2020-21 projected out-turn for Fife Council Social Care Services for Adults and Older People.

Decision/

The Committee considered and noted the contents of the report.

39. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee agreed that members contact the Manager, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services with suggested reports to be included on the Forward Work Programme, which would be updated accordingly.
