

Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee

Due to Scottish Government guidance relating to COVID-19, this meeting will be held remotely.



Tuesday, 26th January, 2021 - 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTES** – Minutes of Meeting of –
 - (a) Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 3rd November, 2020; and 3 – 9
 - (b) Education Appointment Committees of 27th October, 17th November and no. 2 of 4th December, 2020. 10 – 13
4. **SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS** – Report by the Executive Director - Education & Children's Services. 14 – 27
5. **PROPOSED MOTHBALLING OF MILTON OF BALGONIE PRIMARY SCHOOL** – Report by the Executive Director - Education & Children's Services. 28 – 33
6. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES INSPECTION UPDATE** – Report by the Executive Director - Education & Children's Services. 34 – 55
7. **INSPECTION OUTCOMES** – Report by the Executive Director - Education & Children's Services. 56 – 70
8. **EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE - REVENUE BUDGET 2020-21, PROJECTED OUTTURN** – Joint Report by the Executive Director - Education & Children's Services and the Executive Director - Finance & Corporate Services. 71 – 78
9. **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2020-2021: PROGRESS REPORT** – Joint Report by the Executive Director - Education & Children's Services and the Executive Director - Finance & Corporate Services. 79 – 84

ITEM FOR NOTING

10. **EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021** 85 – 86

Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.

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19th January, 2021

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

3rd November, 2020

10.05 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Fay Sinclair (Convener), James Calder, Bobby Clelland, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Julie Ford, Gary Guichan, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Dominic Nolan, Ross Paterson, Alistair Suttie and Craig Walker; 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 (Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services); Maria Lloyd, Head of Education & Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support); Angela Logue, Head of Education & Children's Services (Primary Schools & Improvement Support; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support); Sarah Else, Education Officer, Avril Graham, Sustainable Estate Officer, Jane Gray, Education Officer (Acting), Jacqueline Price, Education Manager (Early Years); Rona Weir, Education Officer, Gary Peattie, Team Manager, Childcare Services, Vivienne Sutherland (Principle Educational Psychologist), Education & Children's Services; Alan Paul, Senior Manager (Property Services); Louise Playford, Service Manager (School Estate), Property Services; and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Lee Cowie (Clinical Service Manager), Fife Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for Item No. 184.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Mr. Bailey-Lee Robb, MSYP.

180.	CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP
	<u>Decision</u>
	The Committee noted that Councillor Craig Walker had replaced Councillor David Barratt as a member of the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee. The Convener, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, welcomed Councillor Walker to the meeting and thanked Councillor Barratt for his contribution to date.
181.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	No declarations of interest were made in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.
182./	

182.	MINUTE(S)
	<p>(a) <u>Minute of Meeting of Education and Children’s Services Sub-Committee of 1st September, 2020</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the minute of the Education and Children's Services Committee of 1st September, 2020.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>The Committee agreed to approve the minute.</p>
	<p>(b) <u>Minutes of Meeting of the Education Appointment Committee of 11th September and 7th and 8th October 2020</u></p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>The Committee agreed to approve the minutes.</p> <p><i>Mr. Crockett joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.</i></p>
183.	BUILDING FIFE’S FUTURE – INVERKEITHING HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS’ APPRAISAL
	<p>In accordance with Fife Council Standing Order No. 2.3 (5), Councillor Sharon Green-Wilson made representation to the Sub-Committee on this item in support of the proposal to agree Option 5, Site 10, Fleet Grounds for the replacement for Inverkeithing High School.</p> <p>The Committee, having noted Councillor Green-Wilson's comments, considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing the outcome of the options' appraisal of educational requirements and technical assessments for the two site options for the replacement for Inverkeithing High School.</p> <p><u>Motion</u></p> <p>Councillor Sinclair, seconded by Councillor Liewald, moved to agree Option 5, Site 10, Fleet Grounds as the preferred location for the replacement for Inverkeithing High School, subject to an addition to recommendation (3) ii) - to authorise Officers to engage with the Communities Directorate with a view to retaining the community use wing at the existing school.</p> <p><u>First Amendment</u></p> <p>Councillor Leslie, seconded by Councillor Dempsey, moved as the first amendment that -</p> <p>'Committee agrees that Option 4 is the preferred location for the replacement Inverkeithing High School subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a/

2020 ECS 72

- a full planning assessment for Site 4 and Site 22 to determine an outcome for progression ;
- the entering into an option agreement with the landowner(s) as per the above decision ;
- the outcome of a consultation to be carried out under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment to agree terms for the purchase of the land.

This should run concurrent with Officers continuing to explore funding sources with the Scottish Government.'

Second Amendment

Councillor Erskine, seconded by Councillor Guichan moved as a second amendment to agree to Option 5, Site 10, Fleet Grounds as the preferred location for the replacement for Inverkeithing High School, subject to a strengthening of recommendation (3) ii) -

'To prepare and bring a future report to the Policy and Co-ordination Committee to investigate the retention, refurbishment and future investment of the Community Use Wing at Inverkeithing High School.'

With the consent of Councillors Sinclair and Liewald (for the motion) and Councillors Erskine and Guichan (for the second amendment), it was agreed to conjoin the second amendment with the motion, which became the substantive motion for the purposes of the vote.

Roll Call

For the Motion - 14 votes

Councillors Clelland, Erskine, Ferguson, Ford, Guichan, Law, Liewald, Paterson, Sinclair, Suttie and Walker; Mr. Alistair Crockett, Mr. George Haggarty and Mr. William Imlay, religious representatives.

For the Amendment - 4 votes

Councillors Calder, Dempsey, Leslie and Nolan.

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

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed Option 5; Site 10, Fleet Grounds, as the preferred location for the replacement for Inverkeithing High School, subject to:
i)/

2020 ECS 73

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.) the entering into of an option agreement with the landowner(s) for the acquisition of a suitable site forming part of the land owned by the Ministry of Defence at Fleet Grounds; ii.) completion of a full planning assessment for development on the Fleet Grounds site; and iii.) the outcome of a consultation to be carried out under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; <p>(2) authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in conjunction with the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment, to agree terms for an Option Agreement with the Ministry of Defence for the purchase of the Fleet Grounds site; and</p> <p>(3) authorised officers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.) continue to explore potential funding sources; ii.) prepare and bring a future report to the Policy and Co-ordination Committee to investigate the retention, refurbishment and future investment of the Community Use Wing at Inverkeithing High School; iii.) prepare the Brief for the option; iv.) appoint a Design Team to prepare designs for the new school; and v.) report back to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee. <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting adjourned at 11.27 a.m.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting reconvened at 11.35 a.m.</p> <p><i>Councillor Ford left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.</i></p>
184.	OUR MINDS MATTER: FIFE SCHOOLS' COUNSELLING SERVICE UPDATE
	<p>The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on work to support young people's mental health, specifically in relation to the development of the Fife Schools' Counselling Service.</p>
	<u>Decision</u>
	<p>The Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) noted the progress of the implementation of the Schools' Counselling Service and associated Our Minds Matter (OMM) developments; (2) endorsed proposed next steps to extend the Schools' Counselling Service and/

2020 ECS 74

	<p>and Our Minds Matter developments as a continued response to the impacts of the COVID-19 context; and</p> <p>(3) approved the proposal to bring a further report to the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee in May, 2021.</p>
185.	ATTAINMENT SCOTLAND FUND
	<p>The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Attainment Scotland Fund (ASF) - which encompasses the Schools Fund and Pupil Equity Fund - providing an update on the work of schools in their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. The report presented an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Attainment Scotland Fund across Fife school establishments.</p>
	<u>Decision</u>
	<p>The Committee:-</p> <p>(1) noted the contents of the report;</p> <p>(2) agreed to continue to seek updates of the impact of interventions on improving educational outcomes for our children, at a Fife wide level through this Committee and locally through Area Committees;</p> <p>(3) at Area Committee, agreed Officers would link with the Area Convener to determine how they wished to best be informed as to the work and impact of the Pupil Equity Fund within their area; and</p> <p>(4) noted the work of schools in developing their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap.</p>
186.	CHILDCARE SERVICES AND PLAY PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT
	<p>The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services seeking approval on proposals to modernise Childcare Services in Fife, moving to a more commercialised model of delivering services.</p> <p><u>Motion</u></p> <p>Councillor Sinclair, seconded by Councillor Ferguson moved to approve the recommendations detailed in the report relating to proposals to modernise Childcare Services in Fife.</p> <p><u>Amendment</u></p> <p>Councillor Law, seconded by Councillor Erskine moved as an amendment to defer the report to allow for further consideration of the impact of the proposals for change on already disadvantaged communities.</p> <p><u>Roll Call/</u></p>

	<p><u>Roll Call</u></p> <p><u>For the Motion</u> - 11 votes</p> <p>Councillors Dempsey, Ferguson, Leslie, Liewald, Nolan, Sinclair, Suttie and Walker and Mr. Alistair Crockett, Mr. George Haggarty and Mr. William Imlay, religious representatives.</p> <p><u>For the Amendment</u> - 6 votes</p> <p>Councillors Calder, Clelland, Erskine, Guichan, Law and Paterson.</p> <p>Having received a majority of votes, the motion was accordingly carried.</p>
	<p><u>Decision</u></p>
	<p>The Committee:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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.
<p>187.</p>	<p>CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN</p>
	<p>The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an overview of the Child Poverty Action Plan for Fife, as required in the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017. The report was to be read in conjunction with the Fife Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR). The LCPAR was produced in partnership with services across Fife, NHS and third sector partners who form the Local Child Poverty Action Group. This group reports to the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty (WRAP) Partnership and to the Children in Fife Partnership and both groups report to the Fife Partnership Board on the Plan for Fife outcomes.</p>
	<p><u>Decision</u></p>
	<p>The Committee:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) noted the contents of the report; (2) noted the progress of the work to date and next steps; (3) approved the actions for Fife Council Education and Children's Services within the LCPAR; and (4) additionally, agreed that the content of the report be shared with the Anti-Poverty Working Group of the Communities and Housing Services Sub-Committee to inform the wider work of the Council's anti-poverty agenda.
<p>188./</p>	

188.	THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STRATEGY FOR 2020-23: BELONGING TO FIFE - PHASE 3
	<p>The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the current Children and Families Strategy 2015-2020 and an overview of the three-year plan 2020-2023, to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people by ensuring that they are supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remain in their own families and communities wherever it is safe to do so; • develop meaningful relational based supports; and • access a range of targeted supports that are visible and available within local communities.
	<u>Decision</u>
	<p>The Committee:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) agreed to approve the Strategy going forward; and (2) requested regular updates for this Sub-Committee's consideration as the Strategy progressed.
189.	EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021
	<p>The Committee considered the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021.</p>
	<u>Decision</u>
	<p>The Committee noted the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"/>

**THE FIFE COUNCIL – EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMMITTEE – EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES**

27 October 2020

9.00am – 11.45am

PRESENT: Councillors Alistair Suttie, Maria Lloyd, Head of Service, Rona Weir, Education Manager, Jacqui Carnegie, Chair, Parent Council, Dehra Sweet, Parent Council.

103. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision

The Committee resolved that under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

104. HEADTEACHER – FREUCHIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee interviewed 2 applicant on the short leet for this post.

Decision

Agreed to recommend the appointment of Holly Kirkhope, previously Acting Headteacher at Freuchie Primary School, Freuchie.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL – EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMMITTEE – EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES**

17 November 2020

9.30 am - 11.30 am

PRESENT: Councillors Helen Law, George Haggarty, Church Representative,
Maria Lloyd, Head of Service, Lynn Porter, Education Manager,
Ciara Logie, Chair, Parent Council, Gary Love, Parent Council.

105. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision

The Committee resolved that under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

106. HEADTEACHER – ST COLUMBA'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

The Committee interviewed 1 applicant on the short list for this post.

Decision

Agreed to recommend the appointment of Michael McGee, currently Headteacher at St. Augustine's High School, Edinburgh.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL – EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMMITTEE – EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES**

4 December 2020

10.15 am – 12.45 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Andy Heer and Lesley Backhouse, Angela Logue, Head of Service, Jane Gray, Education Manager, Gayle Brown, Joint Chair, Parent Council, Kirsy Maxwell, Joint Chair, Parent Council.

107. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision

The Committee resolved that under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

108. HEADTEACHER – PITTEUCHAR WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee interviewed 2 applicants on the short list for this post.

Decision

Agreed to recommend the appointment of Julie Anderson, currently Acting Headteacher at Pitteuchar West Primary School.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL – EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
COMMITTEE – EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES**

4 December 2020

13.30 pm – 17.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Andy Heer and Zoe Hisbent, Angela Logue, Head of Service, Jane Gray, Education Manager, Susan McLauchlan, Chair, Parent Council, Teresa Thomson, Secretary, Parent Council.

109. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Decision

The Committee resolved that under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

110. HEADTEACHER – PITCOUDIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee interviewed 3 applicants on the short list for this post.

Decision

Agreed to recommend the appointment of Tracy Malcolm, currently Depute Headteacher at Pitcoudie Primary School.

26 January 2021

Agenda Item No. 4

Support for Voluntary Organisations

Report by Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director (Education & Children's Services Directorate)

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

This report provides progress on the re-modelling of Children & Families Services and provides options for the new recommissioning model for 2021-22.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee:

- Approve the preferred option as indicated in the report for implementation in 2021-22.
- Note the grant application process that has been undertaken and completed.

Resource Implications

Appendix 3 provides details of recommendations for funding for 2021-22 following a note of interest process and assessment of grant applications. The report provides options within the overall budget available for 2021-2022 for services in scope of £4,427,861.00. The saving of £410,000.00 has been taken from this figure.

Legal and Risk Implications

All awards for support are subject to compliance with Fife Council's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which requires that they are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to ensuring organisations are meeting the terms of their Service Level Agreement.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA and summary form have been completed and attached to the report. A note of interest process involving grant applications in line with the Monitoring & Evaluation framework has been undertaken.

Consultation

At the Education & Children's Services Committee on the 29th of October 2019 agreement was reached regarding cross party engagement in the review of commissioned services. On the 14th of January 2020 an initial engagement session took place with the Third sector to outline the programme of work and priorities within the Children & Families 'Belonging to Fife' strategy to inform recommissioning within the Third sector.

A further report was scheduled to be discussed at Committee on the 31st of March 2020 which outlined key activity for 2020 and funding recommendations for 2020-21. This report was approved by delegated authority on the 27th March 2020 on the basis that it was not possible to meet as a full Committee due to the pandemic.

The schedule of engagement in 2020 was interrupted due to the pandemic resulting in no formal engagement sessions during March – July 2020, however the Strategic Commissioning group has met on a 4-weekly basis from the 21st of July 2020; engagement sessions have been held with the Third sector and a series of frequently asked questions coordinated by Fife Voluntary Action (FVA) has also supported the collaborative process .

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2020/21 Fife Council has provided just over £4 million in grant support to voluntary organisations commissioned to contribute and add value to Education and Children's Services activity. Most of this support is provided through recurring grants directly to the organisations with a small amount being delivered through the non-recurring Grants Schemes.
- 1.2 As part of the financial strategy 2017-2020 the budget saving of £900,000 in respect of support provision across Education, Social Work and the Third Sector was agreed. The saving target of £450,000 was attributed to both Fife Council family support services and Third sector organisations.
- 1.3 During 2018 redesign of family support services within Fife Council resulted in a saving of £450,000 contributing to a more streamlined, efficient and effective service working collaboratively across children's services. A report was presented to Education & Children's Services Committee on the 19th of March 2019 leading to the decision at Committee to proceed with an independent review of Third sector provision to secure the required efficiency savings of £410,000, to better align resources to changing need and to support future commissioning and collaboration. On this basis there was no change to Third sector awards pending the outcome of the review.
- 1.4 A further report was presented to Education & Children's Services Committee on the 29th of October 2019. The outcome of the independent review and various options were tabled for consideration to remodel services and address the efficiency savings. The decision at Committee was no change to Third sector awards during 2020-21 based on the need to develop a significantly different commissioning strategy and relationship with the Third sector. Recurring themes from the independent review and previous thematic reviews of family support provision included:
 - Duplication and overlap of services
 - Fragmentation of services across localities
 - Impact of short-term funding for the Third sector
 - More clarity required regarding models and interventions to evidence impact and longer-term sustainability
 - Continuum of support and a focus on vulnerable children and families

- 1.5 The engagement session held with the Third sector on the 14th of January 2020 outlined the refreshed Children & Families strategy and analysis of trend data confirming demographic changes and the impact of poverty, which are key contributors to outcomes for vulnerable children and families. Information on the key drivers, including a changing profile of care and financial challenges within Children and Families was shared. This detail confirmed the need to redeploy resources more efficiently and effectively requiring fundamental service redesign across the whole system, including the Third sector as part of a recommissioning strategy.
- 1.6 Key activity contributing to the programme of work for 2020 as part of a recommissioning process included:
- Development of a Recommissioning Plan (based on a strategic need assessment)
 - Engagement sessions with the Third sector, elected members and lead officers
 - Development of service briefs
 - Grant application process
 - Awards recommendations for 2021-2022

2.0 Programme of Work

- 2.1 A recommissioning plan for the Children & Families Service has been developed and informed by national guidance and by the last (2018) Care Inspectorate scrutiny of Children's Services in Fife which identified this as an improvement priority. The first phase of the re-commissioning plan for Education and Children's Services focuses on the priorities within the Children & Families Service to develop a coherent and coordinated model which enhances statutory services; delivering community and family facing services in the 7 localities in Fife
- 2.2 The objectives of commissioning work for this first phase include:
- Identifying the total resources available for services and relating this information to the needs within the C&F strategy
 - Agreeing the desired outcomes set out within the strategy and link investment to these
 - Ensure sound governance of resources is established
 - Use a coherent approach to selecting and prioritising investment and disinvestment decisions linking these to outcomes, budgetary and planning processes
 - Create a clear reviewing and evaluation framework to assess outcomes are being achieved
 - Reflect closely the needs and plans at a locality level in this first phase, and with a shift of focus towards additional/intensive need based on an early intervention model, to better reflect the changing profile of care and need in Fife.
- 2.3 The belonging to fife strategy emphasises the importance in balancing the profile of care for our most vulnerable children, young people and families in Fife. Progress has been achieved through investment in a range of resources to improve outcomes for children and young people.

This has included a focus on prevention, building capacity and resilience within families; strengthening family networks and kinship care; intensive resources for children and young people on the edge of care and greater capacity within Fife resources to avoid the need for children and young people to be cared for outside of Fife.

The Children & Families: Strategic Needs Assessment report outlines key principles which are closely aligned to the Independent Care Review (The Promise). This has changed the profile of need in Fife with a greater emphasis on early intervention for the most vulnerable and family support for as long as this is needed. All these factors require a focus on the following:

- Children and young people do better at home than in care.
- Families facing poverty and other challenges need to be supported by 24/7 services that can respond in different ways to presenting need/risk.
- All work should be focussed on strength-based models, building resilience and capacity within families and communities.
- System redesign will ensure that social workers and partnership teams are enabled to provide local intensive support where and when needed and this includes the Third sector.
- System redesign will be based on best practice, driven by the voice of young people and their families
- Children, young people and families will be integral to informing what works and influencing service change.
- Improvement testing, and data systems in place to ensure meaningful data is readily available to monitor implementation of key improvement actions.
- An improved understanding of risk, in its widest context will inform the work, to improve partnership working and enable a less risk averse and interventionist approach.
- A programme of cultural change will be the driver to ensure that family and community capacity building is central to all we do, led by service user groups.

2.4 Following the re-establishment the strategic commissioning group which has full representation across the partnership including elected members, a timetable of activity was approved, and engagement sessions were held in August 2020 with Third sector services. These sessions facilitated by FVA considered the following detail:

- Key phases of commissioning activity
- Mapping of services
- Strategic needs assessment and drivers for change and improvement
- Grant application process and revised services briefs (circulated for comment prior to the process commencing)

2.5 In addition to the above sessions a workshop was held with elected members on the 5th of October 2020 to share detail on the progress of the C&F strategy and clarify any issues regarding commissioning plans and processes.

2.6 A note of interest process, involving the submission of grant applications was conducted. This consisted of the following:

- A total of 6 service briefs were developed, targeted on children and families most in need across Fife Council (appendix 2)
- Formal note of interest process commenced on the 2nd of October and ended on the 20th of November.
- Multi-agency scoring panels were held week commencing the 30th of November to assess applications
- The joint brief for Children's Services and Alcohol and Drug Partnership was extended to allow approval at the ADP Committee, with a deadline for applications set for the 22nd of December and a scoring panel to be held on the 8th of January
- Throughout this process several organisations have taken the opportunity to consult with Council Officers regarding the process.

3.0 Summary of Issues & Options

3.1 The summary of panel findings includes the following:

- Some service briefs attracted multiple applications from a range of organisations
- Some applications were more aspirational and provided clear evidence of transformational service models to achieve outcomes
- Some applications have focused on current delivery models and funding rather than the components in the new service briefs
- Some organisations submitted applications to deliver services across Fife whilst others only focused on a locality
- Some applications focus on universal provision rather than the targeted nature of the brief
- Some were specialist in nature and only met a very limited part of the brief
- In 2 service briefs there was only one application per brief

3.2 At the end of what has been a robust and fair process the following options have been considered to assist reaching a recommendation.

3.3 **Option 1- Status quo.** This option would involve no change to the current commissioned services in Fife leading to minimum disruption however this would not address the gaps identified in the strategic needs assessment and therefore not deliver the outcomes required in the belonging to fife strategy. This option does not deliver the recommendations for change; would mean organisations have undergone a robust process with no change to delivery models; for some of the current service providers support would not address the needs/risk for children and families in Fife. There would be no financial benefits achieved.

3.4 **Option 2 – Recommissioning.** This option would involve some significant change in the profile of the Third sector in Fife over a short period to align with the outcomes required in the strategy. At present some of the gaps identified in the strategy have not been covered by the applications. A proportion of current services would be decommissioned resulting in short term impact on families, on certain groups in some areas of Fife and long-standing services no longer delivering services in some areas.

- 3.5 **Option 3 – Recommissioning with a transition period.** This would enable those services who are able to deliver the requirements of the brief/s and the outcomes in the strategy to move as quickly as possible into new service models (i.e. by April 2021). Appendix 3 provides details of organisations who were assessed as meeting the requirements in the service briefs and are highlighted in green. Appendix 3 also provides details of organisations whose funding will not change due to national agreements, the current award is under £5,000.00 or funding is not in scope. Further assessment and consideration will be undertaken to ascertain whether organisations who have not met the requirements of the new briefs could progress to the new delivery models (i.e. within 6 months of the new financial year). The list of organisations is highlighted in amber in appendix 3.
- 3.6 Option 3 would reduce the impact of decommissioning of some established organisations in certain areas allowing further time to engage in collaborative discussions with organisations (maximum 6 months) to establish whether there is the capacity to adapt and re-align services to meet components in the service briefs within the current budget. However, if the transition was not successful within 6 months some organisations would be decommissioned and appendix 3 provides details on the funding attributed to a 6-month transition period. It is not anticipated that all organisations will require the full period of 6 months to review the position to reach a decision about continuation of funding or decommissioning.
- 3.7 Early stage feedback with some organisations following the note of interest process and scoring panels has indicated there is willingness to undertake a process of further engagement to consider how organisations can review current delivery models to achieve the stated objectives within the service briefs, wider strategy and budget. This will require organisations to be provided with feedback from the applications submitted and discussion on current models of support and ability to reshape services going forward. For some organisations it should be noted that due to the very specialist nature of their service it may not be possible or appropriate to redesign and consideration within the 6 month transition period would need to be given to alternative sources of funding as part of an exit strategy or decommissioning process .

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The extensive programme of recommissioning has been undertaken following the decisions reached by delegated authority on the 27th of March 2020 and has been led by a multi-agency strategic commissioning group involving all stakeholders. The process has been fair and robust underpinned by strong partnership working between Fife Council and the Third Sector.
- 4.2 A thorough process has been undertaken and consideration of the outcomes of the various panels has concluded that option 3 is the most effective way of progressing phase 1 of the recommissioning programme to achieve the objectives of the Children & Families strategy. This option provides the transformational change required in the sector to fulfil the essential role they play in the delivery of the Children & Families strategy. The transitional period provides a further opportunity for those organisations

who have not so far demonstrated their capacity to alter their delivery model to achieve the outcomes for the most vulnerable children and families in Fife. Further negotiation and assessment will take place within the transitional period to engage with these organisations to adapt their services to meet the future requirements and maintain the continuity of their presence in and across communities in Fife.

- 4.3 A further report will be submitted to Committee within 6 months to update on the progress and outcomes achieved during the 6 months transitional period, this will include recommendations for funding for the remainder of the financial year 2021-22 and exit strategy for some organisations.

Appendices

1. Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report
2. Summary of Service Briefs
3. Summary of recommendations for funding

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Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report

(to be attached as an Appendix to the committee report or for consideration by any other partnership forum, board or advisory group as appropriate)

<p>Which Committee report does this IA relate to (specify meeting date)?</p> <p>Education & Children’s Service Committee (26/01/2021)</p>
<p>What are the main impacts on equality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on the most vulnerable children, young people and families in Fife to address needs, risks and wellbeing leading to positive outcomes. • Children’s rights will be central to service delivery promoting greater inclusion and participation • Support will be targeted at a community level for families experiencing poverty, disadvantage and poor outcomes
<p>What are the main recommendations to enhance or mitigate the impacts identified?</p> <p>The remodelling of services across Children & Families and the review of Third sector organisations will ensure a focus on the most vulnerable children & families in Fife. This will provide targeted support which is community facing and the ability to be flexible; responsive and agile in approach. Better coordination and clearer pathways for accessing services will ensure the most vulnerable children, young people and families receive the right support at the right time.</p>
<p>If there are no equality impacts on any of the protected characteristics, please explain.</p>
<p>Further information is available from: Name / position / contact details:</p> <p>Lynn Gillies Service Manager (Children & Families) Tel 03451 555 555 ext 443043</p>

One of the following statements must be included in the “Impact Assessment” section of any committee report. Attach as an appendix the completed EqIA Summary form to the report – not required for option (a).

- (a) An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary for the following reasons:
(please write in brief description)
- (b) The general duties section of the impact assessment and the summary form has been completed – the summary form is attached to the report.
- (c) An EqIA and summary form have been completed – the summary form is attached to the Report

Appendix 2

Brief	Description	Budget allocation
1	Rights & Advocacy for Looked After Children	£200,000-£300,000
2a	Family Support early years	£750,000-£800,000
2b	Family Support (Whole family: Trauma/ Adversity)	£400,000-£450,000
2c	Family Support (Teenagers/ Transitions)	£500,000-£550,000
3	Children & young people affected by disability	£500,000-£550,000
4	Domestic Abuse	£450,000-£500,000
5	Young Carers	£130,000-£150,000
6	Children & young people affected by substance use	£500,000-£650,000

Organisation	Service Brief If Applicable	Project Description	20/21 Full year awards	Recommended 6 Months Transitional 21/22 awards	Recommended 21/22 Full Year Awards	Recommended 21/22 Full Year Awards (with 6 months Transition)
Recommended In Scope Funding Under New Arrangements						
Aberlour Childcare Trust	3	Provision of Residential Short Break and Outreach Service for children with Learning Disabilities and Autism.	£461,529		£506,759	£506,759
Barnardo's - Intensive P Capacity Assessment & Childrens Rights Service	1 & 2b	Family assessment and support services, Parenting Assessment and Children’s Rights Service shaped around ‘The Getting it Right for Every Child’ Principles.	£749,161		£750,000	£750,000
Birthlink		Provides assistance in the fulfilment of statutory duties towards adults affected by adoption.	£4,963		£4,963	£4,963
Childline Scotland		Contribution to the telephone helpline, free confidential access to all children and young people.	£1,600		£1,600	£1,600
Fife Women's Aid	4	Provides refuge, follow-on and outreach support for children and young people aged 0-16 years that have experienced domestic abuse.	£326,261		£477,057	£477,057
Fife Young Carers		Provides support service to young carers age 8 – 18 years.	£135,403		£149,907	£149,907

Includem	2c	Intensive Support Service for Vulnerable Young People and their families	£532,359		£528,320	£528,320
Scottish Child Law Centre		Promotes the rights and welfare of children and young people through the provision of free specialist legal advice, information and training.	£2,209		£2,209	£2,209
Snowdrop		Provides a crèche for 15 children giving respite for parents/carers in Lower Methil.	£2,314		£2,314	£2,314
Recommended In Scope Transition Funding Under New Arrangements						
Cottage Family Centre		Community based family support to children and families (3 yrs.), living in the Gallatown area of Kirkcaldy.	£299,423	£149,711		£149,711
Crossroads (Fife Central)		Provides respite for carers to enable them to have a break from their caring role.	£26,994	£13,497		£13,497
Clued-Up Project		Provides a comprehensive youth friendly drug information and support service to young people under 25 in the Kirkcaldy area.	£133,255	£66,628		£66,628
Drug and Alcohol Project Leven (DAPL)		Provides specialist counselling, support and information and awareness to people affected by their own substance use.	£302,344	£151,172		£151,172
Families First		Supports families and provides activities for families through a range of supports.	£38,384	£19,192		£19,192
Families Outside		Counselling Service for Children and families affected by imprisonment.	£14,000	£7,000		£7,000
Family Mediation Tayside/Fife		Provides information, mediation counselling and other closely related service to separated and divorced parents and their children	£55,313	£27,657		£27,657

Fife Gingerbread		Provides accessible and non-judgemental support, advice and information to lone parent in Fife.	£219,104	£109,552		£109,552
Homestart (Dunfermline)		Provides support to vulnerable families. Families referred are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child under 5.	£97,311	£48,656		£48,656
Homestart (East Fife)		Provides support to vulnerable families. Families referred are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child under 5.	£71,479	£35,739		£35,739
Homestart (Glenrothes)		Provides support to vulnerable families. Families referred are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child under 5.	£88,000	£44,000		£44,000
Homestart (Kirkcaldy)		Provides support to vulnerable families. Families referred are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child under 5.	£91,070	£45,535		£45,535
Homestart (Levenmouth)		Provides support to vulnerable families. Families referred are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child under 5.	£80,122	£40,061		£40,061
Homestart (Cowdenbeath)		Provides support to vulnerable families. Families referred are experiencing difficulties and have at least one child under 5.	£84,342	£42,171		£42,171
Relationship Scotland – Couple Counselling		Provides a confidential counselling service for people in Fife who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage or intimate personal relationship.	£22,826	£11,413		£11,413
RNIB		Provision of specialist resources, information, advice and support for families, childcare settings and staff to enable child centred support specific to children’s individual needs.	£30,690	£15,345		£15,345
SCMA		Community Childminding - Childminding services for children and families at times of crisis and need, support is tailored to family’s needs and priority is given to children 0-3 yrs. of age. Inc. Development Officer Support.	£47,520	£23,760		£23,760

Seal Association		Support aimed at children and young people experiencing difficulties at home, school or in the community.	£28,596	£14,298		£14,298
Who Cares		Provide independent safeguard for young people who are looked after and accommodated within Fife's residential units.	£43,209	£21,604		£21,604
Recommended Out of Scope Funding Under New Arrangements						
Apex - Glenrothes	From Criminal Justice Budget	Offer young people who are looked after and have left the looked after system support and advice in making progress towards employment, training or education.	£53,455		£53,455	£53,455
CHAS - Rachel House Kinross (Children's Hospice Association Scotland)	Agreed by COSLA	CHAS is established to provide hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life limiting conditions Fife contributes to the overall funding in line with COSLA agreement.	£46,342		£46,342	£46,342
Drug and Alcohol Project Leven (DAPL)	From School Counselling Budget		£450,000		£450,000	£450,000
Early Years Scotland	Contributes to national requirement to deliver of 1140 hours of EL&C	Development Officer support to Playgroup committees to ensure financial sustainability, explore alternative management models and promote best management practice and procedures.	£45,764		£48,952	£48,952
Fife Women's Aid	C&F Contribution to MARAC Funding outwith components of brief		£120,936		£120,936	£120,936

Fife Women's Aid	Contribution to MARAC service from NHS		£30,000		£30,000	£30,000
Fife Women's Aid	Contribution to MARAC service from Housing Service		£66,000		£66,000	£66,000
			£4,802,279	£886,992	£3,238,814	£4,125,806

** One organisation who is currently not receiving funding from E&CS applied but did not meet the requirements of the brief and is therefore not included in the above

26 January 2021
Agenda Item No. 5

Proposed Mothballing of Milton of Balgonie Primary School

Report by: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director (Education & Children's Services)

Wards Affected: Ward 14

Purpose

As a result of the declining school roll at Milton of Balgonie Primary School, and the fact that no children enrolled for session 2019/20 or 2020/21, the report proposes the mothballing of Milton of Balgonie Primary School with immediate effect.

Recommendation

The Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee is asked to:

- (a) agree to mothball Milton of Balgonie Primary School with immediate effect;
- (b) agree that during the mothballing period any children wishing to enrol at Milton of Balgonie Primary School will be offered a place at Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School and provided with free transport if they meet the distance criteria;
- (c) agree that the resources and furniture within the school be offered to surrounding schools;
- (d) agree that a further report be brought to Committee, in September 2021, reviewing this decision.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications relating to finance, people or assets.

Legal & Risk Implications

The consideration and determination of this report is by the Council acting as Education Authority. There are no risks associated with this paper, however there will be a requirement for statutory consultation on any future proposal to formally close this school, which would be carried out in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Risk Management have requested that the building is cleared of any resources and furniture to comply with Building Insurance Policy and reduce risk to the Council of vandalism and fire. With the current lockdown position, this will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Impact Assessment

An EIA (Equalities Impact Assessment) was not required in the preparation of this report. Full impact assessments would be carried out as part of any future statutory consultation process.

Consultation

Discussion has taken place with the Joint Headteacher of Milton of Balgonie and Coaltown of Balgonie Primary Schools and regular updates to parents have been provided. The Education Service wrote to all parents, in June 2019 and January 2020 to outline the latest position. The Education Service also held a parental meeting, in Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School on 28 January 2020, to allow parents an opportunity to ask questions about education provision.

A letter was sent to parents on 11 January 2021 advising them of the current position with Milton of Balgonie Primary School and to notify parents that the Education Service would be seeking approval, by a future meeting of the Education & Children's Services Committee, to mothball the school with immediate effect.

1.0 Background

1.1 Milton of Balgonie Primary School is a small rural school with capacity for 75 pupils (3 classes). In August 2018, the Headteacher of Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School accepted the post of Joint Headteacher of Coaltown of Balgonie and Milton of Balgonie Primary Schools. Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School is located 1.9 miles from Milton of Balgonie Primary School.

1.2 The Milton of Balgonie Primary school roll has fallen most recently from 2017-2019, where no pupils enrolled in the school for session 2019/20 and 20/21.

Year	School Roll
2013	27
2014	24
2015	26
2016	26
2017	23
2018	14
2019	0
2020	0

1.3 During academic session 2018/19, the school operated with a single class and additional staff resources to support the school i.e. class teacher to cover non-class contact time and PSA (Pupil Support Assistants) allocation.

1.4 During the session 2018/19, the school roll declined and at the end of term, in June 2019, a number of families made placing requests to attend other primary schools. There were fewer than <5 pupils living in the Milton of Balgonie Primary School catchment area eligible to commence P1 in August 2019. As the expected school roll for August 2019 was to be one pupil, the Headteacher advised the parent of the pupil that this would be the case. The parent, at that point, decided to move their child to Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School.

1.5 The Education Service wrote to all parents, in June 2019, and arranged transport for those pupils living in the Milton of Balgonie Primary School catchment area, who were living more than 1 mile from Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School, to receive free transport from August 2019. There are <10 pupils living in the Milton of

Balgonie Primary School catchment who receive free transport to Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School. Transport continues for these pupils for session 2020/21.

- 1.6 In terms of staff resources, when the school was operational, Milton of Balgonie Primary School employed 7 members of staff, including the Headteacher. At the end of session 2019/20, all of the staff were redeployed to other school establishments, prior to the new term in August 2019.
- 1.7 The Education Service invited nursery parents with children due to start Primary One in August 2020 to a meeting, in Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School, in January 2020. Two parents attended this meeting with a Head of Service and the Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School Headteacher. This meeting was held to allow parents an opportunity to ask questions about education provision.
- 1.8 The Headteacher, following the completion of Primary One enrolment in March 2020, advised that all of the expected Primary One pupils living in the Milton of Balgonie Primary School catchment area had enrolled within Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School for session 2020/21. Therefore, Milton of Balgonie Primary School has no pupils for a second academic session. It is expected that any nursery pupils due to start Primary One August 2021 will attend Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School.
- 1.9 The latest publication of the Housing Land Audit (i.e. 2019) has been shared with the Education Service in order that it can establish whether there is likely to be substantial housing growth in this community. There is a planned site (Balfour Place/Main Street) for 63 units in the Milton of Balgonie Primary School catchment area, to commence post 2024. This site has been included as a greenfield site for development since the 2015 report of the Housing Land Audit.
- 1.10 Future pupil projections for Milton of Balgonie Primary School catchment area (using data provided by NHS Fife – up to end February 2020), indicate that pupils numbers will remain less than 5 pupils over the next 4 years:
- August 2021 – 1 pupil
 - August 2022 – 2 pupils
 - August 2023 – 3 pupils
 - August 2024 – 3 pupils
 - August 2025 – 2 pupils
- 1.11 Although the school is not in operation, the school is still being checked regularly and maintained by staff within Janitorial and Property Services.
- 1.12 The Council's Risk Management Team has requested that the building is emptied of all furniture and resources to ensure full compliance with the Building Insurance Policy. Whenever an insured building becomes vacant, the Council must comply with the Unoccupied Property policy conditions to avoid claims being refused. Due to the poor claim history and the unacceptable condition of vacant properties recently surveyed by the Council's insurers, the Council is now considered an unfavourable risk and is facing significant financial consequences and corrective action from 1 April 2021 when the property insurance is due to renew. This includes complying with additional unoccupied policy conditions that vary depending on the features and value of the property. For any former school building that has an on-going requirement to insure on a full reinstatement basis e.g. we plan to re-

use or sell; and is in a good state of repair, we must be fully compliant with the Unoccupied Property policy conditions and the additional Category C shuttering, inspection, boundary protection, alarm and security requirements. If there is no on-going reinstatement insurance requirement or the intention is to demolish the building, Services must assess the risk and apply any necessary shuttering, inspection and security arrangements to ensure that the building is securely protected from intruders.

- 1.13 Should the decision to mothball the school be approved, it is proposed that all resources and furniture would be offered to surrounding schools

2.0 Mothballing

- 2.1 The Scottish Government has issued statutory guidance under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, published May 2015, in relation to consideration of mothballing of schools.
- 2.2 The term 'mothballing' is used to refer to a temporary decision to close a school where the roll has fallen to zero. Mothballing, rather than closing a school, gives the opportunity for it to reopen should circumstances change. However, there is no legal process for mothballing.
- 2.3 Paragraphs 62 to 64 of the Guidance, deals with the issue of mothballing:

63. In considering alternatives to closure, authorities may choose to consider "mothballing" a school (or a stage of education or a nursery class at a school). This is a temporary closure which does not lead to a consultation under the 2010 Act. It is only appropriate in very restricted circumstances. When a school roll falls very low, the authority and/or community may consider that the school is not presently viable but do not wish to close it immediately because there is a reasonable prospect that the number of pupils in the area will increase such that it should be re-opened in the future.

64. It is vital that this flexibility to close a school for a temporary period is not used to undermine the requirements under the 2010 Act to consult on all school closure proposals. Mothballing is only appropriate for a temporary period and should be subject to regular review, at least annually, against the same requirements which led to the original decision to mothball the school (or stage of education). The maximum length of its duration is likely to depend on the location of the school and the desirability of maintaining capacity to re-open a school there, but it is unlikely that it should exceed 3 years in areas that are not very remote. The condition of the school building and cost of maintaining the mothballed provision will also be relevant.

65. A school can be mothballed where the school roll has fallen to zero and continues to be zero. It *may* also be appropriate where the roll or potential roll is very low and the authority considers the only other option to be closure. However, in circumstances where a school is mothballed rather than closed and some children and young people remain in the catchment area, this decision should be taken in consultation with the parents involved, and the possibility should be raised as early as possible, in order to ensure that families can understand the options open to them. Mothballing should not be a way of denying parents' access to the statutory

consultation process required under the 2010 Act and if the majority of parents oppose mothballing, it would be appropriate to move to statutory consultation on closure as soon as possible.

- 2.4 Based on the background information and this Scottish Government guidance, the Education Service recommends the 'mothballing' of Milton of Balgonie Primary School, with immediate effect. The Education Service also recommends that this decision is reviewed in September 2021.

3.0 Parental Consultation

- 3.1 Parents/carers were notified by letter, in June 2019, that there would be no pupils in Milton of Balgonie Primary School in August 2019. In January 2020, parents/carers were invited to a meeting, on 28 January 2020, to have an opportunity to hear from Council officers regarding future enrolments. After that meeting, the Headteacher confirmed that there would be no pupils attending Milton of Balgonie Primary School for session 2020/21 and this is likely to be the case for session 2021/22.
- 3.2 The Education Service wrote to all parents, on 11 January 2021, advising that the Education Service would be seeking approval, by the Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee, to mothball the school with immediate effect. This notification to parents of all Milton of Balgonie Primary School catchment pupils invited parents to put their views of this proposal in writing.
- 3.3 During the past year, the Education Service has not received any feedback from parents/carers or elected members regarding possible school reopening.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The school roll at Milton of Balgonie Primary School had fallen from 14 pupils to 0 pupils by the end of academic session 2018/19. For sessions 2019/20 and 2020/21 the school has had no pupils and the roll is expected to be 0 pupils for session 2021/22, as parents within the catchment area are anticipated to choose to enrol their child at Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School or alternative primary schools.
- 4.2 This report includes a recommendation, to elected members, to mothball Milton of Balgonie PS, with immediate effect, based on the current position and in the absence of any feedback from parents disagreeing with the proposal of the Education Service.

List of Appendices

N/A

Background Papers

The following paper was relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

<https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00477028.pdf>

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26 January 2021

Agenda Item No. 6

Children's Services Inspection Update

Report by: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director - Education & Children's Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To inform members of the update of the Care Inspectorate Improvement Plan following the 2019 Children's Services Inspection.

Recommendation(s)

Recommended that committee:

- note the outcome of the update report and the progress made;
- recognise that the work is progressing and is being reviewed within the Children in Fife group;
- Consider whether a further update report is required in 12 months on progress made or agree that the three responsible strategic groups report on their ongoing activity to Children in Fife.

Resource Implications

None.

Legal & Risk Implications

Children's Services across all partner activity deal with areas of significant risk and services have detailed arrangements in place to manage these.

Impact Assessment

An EqlA has not been completed and is not necessary because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

The inspection process included extensive consultation with staff across all services along with children and families who use children's services.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Scottish Government has a programme in place to inspect all services to children within local authority areas. The inspection methodology in use for the inspection has a specific focus on the difference community planning partnerships are making to:

- the lives of children and young people in need of care and protection
- the lives of the children and young people for whom community planning partnerships have corporate parenting responsibilities.

1.2 The 2018/19 inspection asked five key questions:

- How good is the partnership at recognising and responding when children and young people need protection?
- How good is the partnership at helping children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect stay safe, healthy and recover from their experiences?
- How good is the partnership at maximising the wellbeing of children and young people who are looked after?
- How good is the partnership at enabling care experienced young people to succeed in their transition to adulthood?
- How good is collaborative leadership?

1.3 During the inspection inspectors collected and reviewed evidence against all 17 quality indicators in the framework and used this understanding to answer the five inspection questions in this report. In addition to answering the inspection questions, inspectors use a six-point scale to provide a formal evaluation of three quality indicators which concern the impact of partners' work on the lives of children, young people and their families and the outcomes partners are achieving.

These are:

- 1.1 – Improvements in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people
- 2.1 – Impact on children and young people
- 2.2 – Impact on families

The inspection also provided an overall evaluation for leadership.

1.4 Following the consideration of the material gathered during the contact with partners and service users in Fife, the inspectors evaluated provision as below:

- 1.1 Improvements in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people - *Good*
- 2.1 Impact on children and young people - *Good*
- 2.2 Impact on families – *Good*
- 9.0 Leadership and direction – *Good*

- 1.5 The areas for improvement noted within the inspection report reflected those identified across the partnership within the self-evaluation prepared in advance of the inspection.
- 1.6 An improvement plan was developed across the Children's Service Partnership to address the areas identified with progress being reported to Children in Fife from the three key strategic groups responsible:
 - Child Protection Committee
 - Corporate Parenting Board
 - Children's Services Partnership Group.

2.0 Update on Improvement Plan

- 2.1 This report has been compiled from across the Children's Services Partnership to give members an update on the Care Inspectorate Improvement Plan developed in July 2019 as a response to the Children's Services Inspection published in April 2019.
- 2.2 Partners in this report are defined as Fife Council, NHS Fife, SCRA, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 2.3 Overall the language in the report was positive in relation to practice across all services but particular emphasis was given to:
 - the strengths around relationship-based practice which was seen to significantly benefit the experiences of both children and their families.
 - good collaborative working, keeping children at the centre of decision making
 - visible improvement relating to attainment and positive destinations.
 - the support for children leaving care
 - an evident culture of self-evaluation across the partnership.
- 2.4 Strengths Detailed
 - Robust and effective pre-birth planning processes enabled the early identification, management and response to child protection and wellbeing concerns. This was ensuring vulnerable pregnant women were getting the right help and support at an early stage.
 - A wide range of flexible and responsive therapeutic services was effectively supporting children and young people in need of care and protection to get timely help and support to recover from abuse and trauma.
 - Effective, trusting relationships and nurturing care by staff and carers was positively impacting on the quality, stability and continuity of care and support for children and young people in care placements, including those young people in continuing care.
 - Strong partnership working and a culture of learning was helping to drive forward identified improvements. This was supported by effective leadership and a well-performing child protection committee.

- The work of partners to help educational attainment and positive post school destinations of looked after children.

2.5 The inspection report also helped us prioritise areas for improvement.

- Partners should further improve their recognition and response when children and young people experience neglect or repeated instances of harm, for example because of parental substance misuse, mental ill-health or domestic abuse.
- Partners should achieve greater consistency in the quality and practice standards of assessments, child's plans and chronologies and strengthen quality assurance and management oversight.
- Partners should continue to ensure that capacity is released to improve the time taken to undertake health needs assessment in preschool children when they become looked after.
- Partners should progress plans to undertake a health needs assessment with all care leavers and advise them how to seek support relating to any emotional or wellbeing needs that are identified.
- Partners should continue to use data and analysis of the Home2Fife strategy and ensure this is effectively linked to a commissioning framework.

2.6 In the conclusion to the inspection report, the Care Inspectorate and its scrutiny partners noted that they were confident that the Fife partnership had the capacity to continue to improve and address the points for action highlighted in this report. This was based on:

- the collective leadership, direction and accountability demonstrated by partners to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people in need of care and protection in Fife
- the strong culture of learning across services underpinned by well embedded approach to self-evaluation and continuous improvement to improve performance and practice
- effective partnership working and the culture of mutual support and collaboration at strategic and operational levels
- the strategic focus and oversight by the child protection committee to improve multi-agency responses to keep children safe and protected
- the commitment and high aspirations as corporate parents to improve better outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers.

2.7 It also noted that partners would need to continue to develop their joint approaches strategic assessment of need and the use of data and evidence to be able to ensure improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

2.8 Improvement Plan: Partners undertook to develop and improvement plan throughout May – July 2019 and this was agreed at CiF in August 2019. The plan contained 13 areas for improvement as detailed below:

- Partners should further improve their recognition and response when children and young people experience neglect or repeated instances of harm, for example because of parental substance misuse, mental ill-health, domestic abuse and accumulating neglect

- Partners should achieve greater consistency in the quality and practice standards of assessments, child's plans and chronologies
- Further development of methods for systematically gathering feedback from children, young people and their parents and evaluation of views.
- Specific activity for children involved in Child Protection and Looked After processes
- Partners should strengthen quality assurance and management oversight
- Partners should continue to ensure that capacity is released to improve the time taken to undertake health needs assessment in preschool children when they become looked after
- Partners should progress plans to undertake a health needs assessment with all care leavers and advise them how to seek support relating to any emotional or wellbeing needs that are identified
- Partners should continue to use data effectively and analyse the Home2Fife strategy, ensuring this is effectively linked to a commissioning framework
- Evaluation, audit and strategic oversight of IRD processes to ensure decision making is robust when concerns are about neglect and domestic abuse
- Review of advocacy services to ensure Children and Young people can access appropriate support
- Strengthen the quality assurance role provided by independent reviewing officers to help ensure greater consistency
- Care leavers need to be able to access more flexible accommodation options.
- Agree joint strategic approach to setting out corporate parenting priorities across the partnership

2.9 Each of the 13 actions has made progress over the last 14 months since the plan was agreed. Within the 13 actions there were 29 subsections. 13 of these have been completed with progress detailed on the remaining 26. Please see attached report with RAG status applied for specific details. It should be noted that the plan was not designed to be short term but to support improvement over time.

3.0 Issues and Options

3.1 It is noted that the impact of coronavirus has affected progress within a number of areas as agencies within Fife focussed their priorities around supporting the most vulnerable families during lockdown and recovery.

3.2 The publication of the Independent Care Review and the obligations of 'the Promise' have led to further review of prioritising improvement activity across the partnership. Whilst all the activity required for the Care Inspectorate Improvement plan are ongoing, particular elements will be targeted:

- *Further development of methods for systematically gathering feedback from children, young people and their parents and evaluation of views.*
It is noted that whilst there has been progress made in relation to the meaningful engagement and participation of children and young people within decision making forum this is an area where further progress is required.
- *Partners should continue to use data effectively and analyse the Home2Fife strategy, ensuring this is effectively linked to a commissioning framework.*

The partnership is highly focused on ensuring that data is used effectively within agile planning in 'real' time and although progress has been made this will be a targeted area for improvement in 2021.

- *Partners should further improve their recognition and response when children and young people experience neglect or repeated instances of harm, for example because of parental substance misuse, mental ill-health, domestic abuse and accumulating neglect.*

Early and effective intervention using the strengths of the Child Wellbeing Pathway will be further developed throughout 2021 building on progress made.

3.3 It should be noted that the partnership has made significant progress in relation to:

- *'Care leavers need to be able to access more flexible accommodation options':*
- the establishment and ongoing usage of a 'training' flat for young people transitioning out of formal care
- The partnership with the National House Project which will offer care leavers tenancies from December 2020
- Ongoing work and planning with the Barnardos Gap project
- Ongoing recruitment of Supported Lodgings carers (increase from 26 to 52 during 2019-2020)
- The re-provisioning of a care home in Fife to provide a group living environment specifically to support care leavers moving towards independence.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The inspection report presented a comprehensive analysis of services to children in need of care and protection in Fife. It covered all partnership activity, including the 3rd sector, as well as including extensive engagement with children and families who use services within Fife.
- 4.2 The report highlighted a number of areas of good practice and noted as particular strengths: the quality of relationship-based practice in Fife and the positive impact that this has on children and families, the work of the Child Protection Committee and the leadership shown by staff at all levels. It also commented very positively on the outcomes achieved by services and the attainment of our children and young people.
- 4.3 The report allowed for a positive foundation for further improvement work which is detailed in the appendix and have been taken forward by the strategic groups responsible for the activity.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 - Improvement plan with RAG status

Background Papers

The following background paper was relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

Report of a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in Fife - link to report (also available via the Care Inspectorate website) -

<http://bit.ly/fife-servicesforcyp>

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Appendix 1: Improvement plan with RAG status

Area for Action	Activity	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG Status
<p>1. Partners should further improve their recognition and response when children and young people experience neglect or repeated instances of harm, for example because of parental substance misuse, mental ill-health, domestic abuse and accumulating neglect</p>	<p>(a) Review of how neglect is identified and responded to including the evaluation of existing pilots or practice change initiatives (i.e. Child Care Clinic: Dental Neglect Pilot)</p>	<p>CPC/CSPG</p>	<p>February 2021</p>	<p>Health CP team: the pilot area of childcare clinic was extended to include another KDY HV cluster due to low number of referrals identified.</p> <p>However, the Child Care Clinic is currently suspended due to long term sickness of the Lead Consultant CP Paediatrician and Consultant Community Paediatrician vacancies. This will be reviewed in February 2021.</p> <p>Dental neglect pilot: test of change has made some progress, but now on hold due to COVID pandemic, and may be challenging to resurrect in its current form. PDS and School Nursing plan to revisit Test of Change and would value partners' thoughts.</p> <p>5/08/20 – Dental services and school nurses are unable to engage with children and families due to COVID restrictions and this will be an unrealistic challenge for some time to come.</p> <p>Although the two pilots are on</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

				<p>hold due to unforeseen circumstances, work is progressing across the partnership, and tackling neglect is a key work strand across many of the working groups. Rich learning has come from a recent Learning Together Review which highlighted key processes staff can draw on for assessing and responding to neglect.</p> <p>A scoping exercise of bespoke neglect assessment tools concluded that current assessment tools are more than adequate, alongside effective supervision and L&D opportunities as pivotal instruments in improving the recognition of and response to neglect.</p> <p>Impact assessment and performance will continue to be monitored through the self-evaluation and improvement working group</p>	
	(b) Annual CPC audit to analyse responses to CYP. (No (%) of case files assessed as very good or better)	SE&A group CPC/CSPG	October 2019	<p>Audit completed and findings shared with CPC, agreed action plan drawn up.</p> <p>Complete</p>	GREEN
	(c) Partnership evaluation of 30 child's plans. (No (%) of child's plans assessed as very good or better)	CSPG/CPC CWP group	June 2019	<p>Audit completed and refreshed plan being piloted across Universal Services and SW.</p> <p>Complete</p>	GREEN

	<p>(d) Evaluation of impact and uptake of training opportunities: Practice Development Events, CWP refresh, Child Protection Training</p>	<p>CPC/CSPG Workforce development group Individual agency self-evaluation</p>	<p>August 2020</p>	<p>16/06/20 – WFDG 2019 Annual report of CPC training positively evaluated but also raised questions re whether reaching targeted workforce. L&D officer post vacant, alternative models currently being considered, but no decision as yet. Due to pandemic current priority to provide some on-line learning modules for the CPC website.</p> <p>Themes coming up are CSE and neglect and these can be captured in different ways other than standard CP training.</p> <p>Once a L&D Co-ordinator is appointed, it is anticipated that a key function will be to evaluate L&D events which will be reported to CPC and CSPG.</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
	<p>(e) Multi-agency questionnaires and focus groups through SE&A group to include questions on neglect to gather staff views and confidence</p>	<p>SE&A group CPC/CSPG</p>	<p>February 2021</p>	<p>As a consequence of COVID this has not developed, and consideration is being given as to whether this activity can be scheduled for later in 2020.</p> <p>5/08/20 – C Moir to raise the possibility of face to face or virtual focus groups at next SE & A group meeting. Looking to merge learning from Franklin Covey work however timescale needs to be extended to end of</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

				year.	
2. Partners should achieve greater consistency in the quality and practice standards of assessments, child's plans and chronologies	(a) Annual CPC audit to analyse responses to CYP. (No (%) of case files assessed as very good or better)	SE&A group CPC/CSPG	October 2019	See above. Complete	GREEN
	(b) Partnership evaluation of 30 child's plans. (No (%) of child's plans assessed as very good or better)	CWP group CPC/CSWG	June 2019	See above. Complete	GREEN
3. Further development of methods for systematically gathering feedback from children, young people and their parents and evaluation of views.	(a) Develop and implement the 'Children and Young People's Participation Framework which will assist individual services to assess their readiness to support children and young people's engagement and participation.	Engagement and Participation Working Group (EPWG)	November 2019	<p>The framework was completed and circulated to all members of the CPC & CSPG. Members were reminded in May 2020 and asked to utilise it when consulting and engaging children and young people through COVID-19.</p> <p>The "Children and Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework" has been developed to support services to consider how they can engage children and young people in decision making processes. The framework is underpinned by the collective belief that engaging young people in the decisions that affect them results in improved outcomes for children and young people across Fife.</p> <p>The framework provides guidance and materials to</p>	GREEN

				support participation and engagement, alongside a range of case studies demonstrating effective practice. Complete	
	(b) In line with the framework single agencies will scope current activity identifying how they involve/will involve children and young people in planning their care and service development and improvement.	CSPG/CPC Partners SW Education SCRA 3 rd Sector Housing Police Health	December 2019	16.06.20 - (SCRA) Engagement with children and young people is a key element of SCRA's Corporate Plan 2020-23: (1) SCRA will continue to propose and respond to the direction set by the <i>Our Hearings Our Voice</i> Board (a national board of C&YP set up to improve the Children's Hearing System); (2) this is the 10 th year SCRA has employed Modern Apprentices who continue to inform our working practices; and (3) on a local level, we will continue to engage C&YP in the work of the <i>Fife Children's Hearing Improvement Partnership</i> . To date this has included surveying C&YP to identify key areas for improvement – the auditing of which forms part of the Fife CHIP action plan (albeit this is currently on hold given our focus on the response to Covid19). 24.06.20 – C& F Social Work have undertaken activity with children to seek their views on lockdown through asking three questions. This will be compiled and learning shared.	GREEN

			<p>Corporate Parent Board has completed a report on the views of LAC in residential care which details how YP can be involved in service design.</p> <p>29/06/20 – Housing Services have just completed a piece of participative research with Care Experienced Young People gathering information from them around their Housing Options and preparation for independent living.</p> <p>Pro-forma developed via the Engagement and Participation Group circulated round third sector forum members for action.</p> <p>09/07/20 – CSPG – A 7-minute briefing has been produced to use across all staff groups to raise awareness of Children’s Rights and support services to consider effective participation and engagement of children and young people. This included information on The Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment Tool (CRWIA).</p> <p>Services are giving consideration of the impact COVID-19 has had on our communities and are committed</p>	
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				<p>to keep children's rights at the centre as we move to the next phase of the Scottish Government's 'COVID-19 – Framework to Decision Making' route map through and out of this crisis.</p> <p>Young Runaways – children and young persons engaged via return interviews, Concern Hub engage most appropriate of parents/carers/teachers/named persons in discussions with children and young people so indirect engagement, all focussing on the 'why' and situational improvement to prevent recurrence.</p> <p>VRI/JII – involve children in the process through explanation, consent and seeking views as to desired outcome.</p> <p>Complete</p>	
	(c) Explore and review good practice by other partnerships.	EPWG	October 2019 - ongoing	<p>Members of Engagement and Participation group attended a national training improvement collaborative programme: Supporting Children & Young People's Strategic Engagement. This provided an opportunity to identify good practice from other partnerships and for both the home and away teams to reflect on work in Fife and use quality improvement tools to focus on</p>	GREEN

				next steps. The information and learning has been used by the working group to constructively challenge practice and improve methods of engagement. Complete	
4. Specific activity for children involved in Child Protection and Looked After processes	(a) Annual CPC audit to evaluate involvement of CYP in relation to views being sought	SE&A group CPC/CSPG	February 2021	As above at 1 (e) re audit as they feed into each other. The work detailed by the Child Protection Team progressed September 2020 and learning is being evaluated and will be shared with SE&A group's first meeting in 2021.	AMBER
	(b) Reviewing Service (Social Work) to undertake audit of case conference and initial LAC reviews to ascertain how children's views are sought and presented	Social Work	February 2021	This work has not progressed due to COVID. A new Reviewing Service Team Manager has recently been appointed (July 2020) and this task will be progressed as a matter of priority and it will connect with the Franklin Covey work to get maximum impact.	AMBER
5. Partners should strengthen quality assurance and management oversight	(a) Agree and arrange evaluation and audits of management processes	Individual services Service Leads for SW Education 3 rd Sector Housing Police SCRA	December 2021	Health CP team: CP QA framework complete and ready to be launched (Children's Services and relevant adult health services) SCRA undertakes a national case sampling audit on a quarterly basis (currently suspended due to Covid response). This audit and review is considered by SCRA's Executive Management Team and results in specific	AMBER

			<p>improvement action plans for Locality Reporter Managers; Performance overview is provided to each Locality on a bi-monthly basis by SCRA's Quality Assurance Manager which informs local improvement plans; and (3) previous audit of management processes resulted in the formation of twice-yearly Locality Reporter Manager network development sessions.</p> <p>This was not identified as a key priority for social work other than to ensure clarity around recording management decisions in the electronic system. This has been delayed due to a new electronic system being commissioned.</p> <p>Housing Services – complete a yearly agency audit of all protection procedures. Case sampling is undertaken to evaluate the practice of staff and the effectiveness of procedures. Action Plans are developed in relation to this.</p> <p>3rd Sector – each agency responsible for own quality assurance and management oversight. Reporting mechanisms in place through Service Level Agreements. Key</p>	
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				<p>priorities for action in improvement plan regularly shared with third sector organisations through the Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum.</p> <p>Police – Child Protection Register – flag now added to VPD to increase visibility of vulnerable children. Back record conversation underway.</p> <p>Education: The development of child protection audit of school processes to be undertaken next session. This will include ongoing dialogue with the DHTs with a remit for GIRFEC/Child protection.</p>	
	(b) Agree and arrange evaluation and audit of supervision processes	<p>Individual services</p> <p>Service Leads for SW</p> <p>Education</p> <p>3rd Sector</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Police</p> <p>SCRA</p>	December 2021	<p>Health CP team: CP QA framework scheduled to be launched in Autumn 2020. CP team currently reviewing supervision for supervisors</p> <p>SCRA, in partnership with Unison, undertook a thorough review of SCRA's Supervision Framework in 2019. Framework was relaunched in May 2020 and outlines SCRA's expectations for formal supervision of all staff a minimum of 5 times per year. Formal supervision must now be recorded electronically for audit purposes.</p>	AMBER

				<p>Social work reviewed and evaluated supervision process and impact in 2019: action complete.</p> <p>Housing Services – work is ongoing to look at coaching, mentoring and supervision of staff.</p> <p>3rd Sector – each agency has their own supervision arrangements and review processes in place.</p> <p>Police – Self-evaluation process of concern reports relating to children and young people in dip sampling format. Quality assurance framework embedded within Risk and Concern Hub in respect of EEI with relevant children and young people.</p> <p>Education: Supervision model for education staff remains in development.</p>	
	(c) Multi-agency questionnaires through SE&A group to include questions on supervision to gather staff views	SE&A group CPC/CSPG	June 2021	As above at 1 (e)	AMBER
6. Partners should continue to ensure that capacity is released to improve the time	(a) Paediatric Consultant capacity to be considered within the	H&SC and NHS Fife	June 2019	Appointments continue to be allocated within the general clinics for LAC Health	GREEN

taken to undertake health needs assessment in preschool children when they become looked after	organisation with immediate action to include dedicated clinic time for LAC health assessments.			assessments Community Paediatrician LAC clinic has reduced to monthly for complex cases as the Health Visitors/Family Nurses are undertaking the under 5 LAC assessments. Complete	GREEN
	(b) Consideration of new model of care to address waiting times for LAC under 5 assessments.	H&SC and NHS Fife	December 2020	Health Visitors and Family Nurses are now undertaking the HNA process for the under 5's. This has reduced the waiting time for HNA to within the required 4 weeks. Complete	
7. Partners should progress plans to undertake a health needs assessment with all care leavers and advise them how to seek support relating to any emotional or wellbeing needs that are identified	(a) School Nursing service to further develop their planning in relation to what can be offered to care leavers in partnership with the Young People's Team in social work	School Nursing Service HSCP Mark Smith	March 2021	Scoping being undertaken with other boards looking at best practice before progressing to HNA Consultation planned with care leavers to inform the content of the health needs assessment. Unfortunately, this is paused at present due to Covid. Further update likely spring 2021.	AMBER
8. Partners should continue to use data effectively and analyse the Home2Fife (retitled Belonging to Fife) strategy, ensuring this is effectively linked to a commissioning framework AMBER	(a) Governance group to be created to review all activity relating to H2Fin addition to developing a joint approach in relation to a strategic assessment of need (projected and current) and the use of data and evidence to	All partners and chaired by HoS/CSWO	February 2021	Group not yet established but progress made in relation to partnership data group. Strategic commissioning group established, and third sector review completed 5/08/20 – Practice governance group to be established. This work has been affected by	AMBER

	<p>ensure improving outcomes for children and families: STEPP H2F data SAC-LAC progress Recruitment strategy for FC/SL/Adoptive carers Strategic commissioning group for carers both community and residential Kinship strategy refresh</p>			<p>the publication of the Independent Care Review and the recognition that all partners need to develop their understanding of the Promise, which will be the key policy document guiding partnership planning for all looked after or care experienced young people.</p> <p>A group to consider practice changes to ensure Fife is keeping the 'promise' established December 2020 and will report to CiF</p>	
	(b) 6 monthly reports evaluating impact and collaborative advantage to be presented to CiF	All partners and chaired by HoS/CSWO	March 2021	5/08/20 – Requires wider and YP review. CPB will pull this into a piece of work, get a systems approach going forward and any gaps will be highlighted. Work is ongoing	AMBER
9. Evaluation, audit and strategic oversight of IRD processes to ensure decision making is robust when concerns are about neglect and domestic abuse	(a) Ongoing evaluation to continue – SG advise they are keen to use current Fife model as exemplar	IRD SOG CPC	September 2019	<p>Evaluation presented to CPC November 2019, actions emerging to be progresses with IRD partners Complete</p> <p>The Scottish Government are about to consult on national child protection guidance – this work has been delayed due to Covid but should now be completed by April 2021 and will shape any potential changes to IRD processes.</p>	GREEN
	(c) Measure outcomes in	IRD SOG	September	As above	GREEN

	relation to single or multi-agency planning Analyse data in relation to emerging themes to ensure agencies develop responsive resources (Audit activity)	CPC	2019	Complete	
10. Review of advocacy services to ensure Children and Young people can access appropriate support	(a) Advocacy services for young people to be captured within Third Sector commissioning review	Kathy Henwood Lynn Gillies Fiona McKay Carrie Lindsay	December 2020	The Third sector review is complete and recommendations on options regarding future commissioning arrangements will be considered at E&CS Committee. Further details will be provided following Committee on any implications for Barnardo's Rights and Advocacy Service and Who Cares?	AMBER
11. Strengthen the quality assurance role provided by independent reviewing officers to help ensure greater consistency	(a) Collaborative Inquiry work to continue in relation to progressing development of skills in chairing, decision making and understanding of the role and function of the CPR.	Collaborative Partnership group already established and chaired by Chris Moir	December 2019	Learning and plan shared across collaborative learning group during 2019. Complete	GREEN
	(b) Action plan to be evaluated	Collaborative Partnership group already established and chaired by Chris Moir	April 2020	Complete However, learning from the 'Sprints' will add to the learning	GREEN
12. Care leavers need to be able to access more flexible accommodation options.	(a) Housing service to further develop their planning in relation to what can be offered to	Paul Short Mark Smith Corporate Parents	Ongoing	Housing have been working jointly with the Social Work Young People's Team to review the housing pathway for Care	GREEN

	care leavers in partnership with the Young People's Team in social work			Experienced Young People. This work should be complete by October 2020. The services have been successful in getting funding for the National House Project which will deliver new Housing and support services to Young Care Leavers. Work is also underway with Barnardo's on the Gap Homes project. Complete.	
	(b) Evaluation to use data in relation to numbers of young people offered tenancies/supported lodgings accommodation and continuing care	Paul Short Mark Smith Corporate Parents	December 2019 and annual	As part of the work to review the housing pathway we have conducted evaluations of the housing / support outcomes for Care Experienced Young People. Complete	GREEN
13. Agree joint strategic approach to setting out corporate parenting priorities across the partnership	(a) Work to continue within this group to ensure commitments are explicit and ambitious.	Corporate Parenting Board members	February 2021	Work to continue and activity ongoing to ensure this work encompasses the obligations from the 'promise'.	AMBER
	(b) Annual evaluation of the CPB plan	Corporate Parenting Board members	December 2020	Ongoing. 5/08/20 –Timescale to be extended to December 2020 to fit with reviews and will be able to provide annual report for evaluation.	AMBER

HIGH	The work is not progressing (explain in text) and set timescale will not be met. High Partnership risk.
MEDIUM	Some difficulties (explain in text) are beginning to emerge impacting on the pace of delivery resulting in some slippage in the timescale set. Medium Partnership risk.
LOW	The work is progressing as agreed and will be complete within the anticipated timescale. Low Partnership risk.

26 January 2021

Agenda Item No. 7

Inspection Outcomes

Report by: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education and Children's Services

Wards Affected: ALL

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide for the Education and Children's Services Committee an overview of the outcomes and key messages from inspections of:-

- Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools undertaken by Education Scotland
- Care Inspectorate within the Early Learning Centres
- Care Inspectorate within Family Placement Service
- Care Inspectorate within Out of School/Creche Provision

Recommendation(s)

The Education and Children's Service Committee is asked to:

- Scrutinise the outcomes of the overview; and
- Note areas of success and progress, as well as the actions being taken to ensure continued improvement

Resource Implications

None

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no direct legal/risk implication arising from the report.

Impact Assessment

An impact assessment checklist is not required as this is a performance report.

Consultation

There was no specific consultation related to this report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The *Care Inspectorate*, formerly known as the Care Commission, is the independent scrutiny and improvement body for care and children's services. It regulates and inspects Care Services, Early Learning and Childcare including nursery classes. The timetable for inspections is organised directly by the Care Inspectorate with no notice given to head teachers/managers and staff prior to the inspection beginning.
- 1.2 On 1st April 2018 Scotland's Health and Care Standards came into effect, replacing the National Care Standards. The Care Inspectorate is required, by law to consider the Health and Social Care Standards when making decisions during our inspections.

The headline outcomes are:

- I experience high quality care and support that is right for me
- I am fully involved in all decisions about my care and support
- I have confidence in the people who support and care for me
- I have confidence in the organisation providing my care and support
- I experience a high-quality environment if the organisation provides the premises

- 1.3 The grades awarded to services at inspections by the Care Inspectorate describe how well those services are performing against quality themes and statements. Inspectors use their professional knowledge and experience, along with the National Care Standards, to determine the most appropriate grades. The Quality themes until April 2019 were as follows:

- Quality of Care and Support
- Quality of Environment
- Quality of Staff
- Quality of Management and Leadership

Since the end of April 2019, the Care Inspectorate Quality indicators have been:

- How well do we support children and young people's wellbeing?
- How good is our leadership?
- How good is our staff team?
- How good is our setting?
- How well is our care and support planned?

Account is also taken of information and intelligence received on the performance of care services: from people who use them, the complaints process, and from notifications received from services about significant events that happen or any major change that affect the service delivered.

- 1.4 It is not uncommon for care services to see their grades change over time, either positively or negatively. Inspectors always inspected on the first Quality Statement in the Quality themes (Care and Support) and now on the first and last theme (How well do we support children and young people's wellbeing? and How well is our care and

support planned?). They may then pick other selected additional Quality Statements based on where they judge the service has most room for improvement. It is therefore hard to measure one inspection against another. Continual improvement is needed to raise the bar, and this is why services are required to undertake their own self-evaluation and improvement activity.

- 1.5 *Education Scotland* inspects in a range of educational establishments, including special schools, early learning and childcare, independent schools, primary schools, residential schools and secondary schools. Inspections are designed to serve the core purpose of 'improving outcomes for all Scotland's Learners.'
- 1.6 Education Scotland's approaches to inspection focus on the ability of an establishment to evaluate itself (self-evaluation). Education Scotland have a particular interest in how the school is developing children's skills and understanding in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing. In addition, they also look at how schools are working to close the poverty related gap in attainment and preparing children for the world of work.
- 1.7 From August 2016, Education Scotland have used 'How Good is Our School 4' (HGIOS4) and 'How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare' (HGIOELC) to evaluate the work of an educational establishment. (links for documents in Appendix 4 and 5)
- 1.8 Education Scotland has two inspection models for schools.

The full model inspection is over 5 days and covers a range of Quality Indicators. (QIs) As part of this process the following areas are inspected:

- 1.3 Leadership of Change
- 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
- 3.1 Ensuring inclusion, wellbeing and equality
- 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement (or securing children's progress in the Early Years sector)
- 2.2 Curriculum – Learning Pathways
- 2.7 Partnerships – Impact of parental engagement
- 2.1 Safeguarding

In this process, QIs 1.3, 2.3, 3.1 and 3.2 are given an evaluative grade.

Between August 2019 and November 2019 Educational establishments also selected an additional quality indicator of their own choice.

Since November 2019 educational establishments have chosen an aspect of school empowerment to discuss further with the inspection team. This enables school staff and inspectors to explore in more depth a particular aspect of school empowerment.

- 1.9 The short model inspection is over 2 days and covers 2 Quality Indicators. As part of this process the following areas are inspected.
 - 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
 - 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement (or securing children's progress in the Early Years sector)

- 1.10 Exactly when a school or Early Years' setting is inspected is decided by Education Scotland. Head teachers or managers are given two weeks' notice prior to inspectors starting the inspection in the school or ELC setting. Education Scotland decides whether a long or short model inspection will be used. A short report is published a number of weeks after the 'inspection week'. In Fife, the outcomes of inspections are shared at local level with Councillors.
- 1.11 As stated by Education Scotland, there was an increase of educational establishments inspected since August 2018. Although this has increased it is still only a sample of Fife establishments which are inspected each year. Most recently, in 2019 – 2020, there were 0 inspections of ELC settings, 9 primary inspections (3 short model/6 full model) 2 Secondary inspections (1 short model and 1 full model) and 1 Primary follow through inspection.
- 1.12 Results from inspections can therefore only form part of the picture as to how well our establishments perform overall. Inspection is a very good source of objective evidence on our performance. It is important, however, that neither establishments nor the Directorate rely exclusively on this one source of evidence. As well as evidence from inspection, the Directorate, through a range of quality improvement processes with school leaders and schools, aims to build a sound knowledge of schools' strengths and areas for improvement. This knowledge is gained from Learning Partnerships/Extended Learning Partnerships in all educational establishments, Agile Recovery Plans for Session 2020 - 2021, Standard and Quality Reports and Attainment, attendance and exclusion data gathered from schools.
- 1.13 Due to COVID 19 Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate informed local authorities on Friday 13th March 2020 that all inspections would be paused. As a result, we had no inspections in any establishment between March 2020 – June 2020.

2.0 Issues and Options

Education Scotland inspections of Fife Council establishments, session 2019 - 2020

- 2.1 Primary short model inspections - Dunnikier Primary School (Kirkcaldy), Foulford Primary School (Cowdenbeath) and Kennoway Primary School.
- 2.2 Primary full model inspections - Aberdour Primary School, Camdean Primary School (Rosyth), St Agatha's RC Primary School (Leven), Saline Primary School, Strathmiglo Primary School and Southwood Primary School (Glenrothes)
- 2.3 Secondary short model inspections – Glenrothes High School
- 2.4 Secondary full model inspections – Bell Baxter High School (Cupar)
- 2.5 Valley Primary School (Kirkcaldy) had a follow through inspection in February 2020
- 2.6 Outcomes for all primary, secondary, special schools and pre-school centres in Fife compared with national statistics

Satisfactory	Fife	100%	National	94%
Good	Fife	68%	National	64%
Very Good	Fife	17%	National	16%
Excellent	Fife	0%	National	1%

Statistics from 2017 – 2020 are included in Appendix 1

Evaluative grades for individual schools are included in Appendix 3

2.7 Outcomes for all pre-school centres (Nursery) in Fife compared with national statistics

Satisfactory	Fife	100%	National	100%
Good	Fife	65%	National	62%
Very Good	Fife	23%	National	12%
Excellent	Fife	0%	National	1%

Statistics from 2017 – 2020 are included in Appendix 2

Performance in Education Scotland inspections over time for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools:

2.8 Over the last three years, 2017 - 2020, Fife continues to maintain positive inspection outcomes. Last session Fife's outcomes were above national outcomes for satisfactory, good and very good evaluative grades.

2.9 There has been an increase in satisfactory, good and very good evaluative grades from 2018 – 2019 to 2019 – 2020.

Performance in Education Scotland inspections over time Pre-school Centres (Nursery):

2.10 Over the last three years, 2017 - 2020, Fife continues to maintain positive inspection outcomes. Last session Fife's outcomes were above national outcomes for good and very good evaluative grades.

2.11 There has been an increase in very good evaluative grades from 2018 – 2019 to 2019 – 2020.

Evaluative Grades included in Appendix 3

Care Inspectorate Inspections:

2.12 Between August 2019 and March 2020, 22 Early Years provisions were inspected by Care Inspectorate. These inspections were across early years provision within primary school, family nurture centres and special schools.

Evaluative grades for individual establishments are included in Appendix 4

2.13 Throughout session 2019 – 2020, there were 6 out of school club and 2 creche inspections.

2.14 Between August 2019 and March 2020 there were no inspections within the Family Placement Service.

Evaluative grades for individual establishments are included in Appendix 5

Performance in Care Inspectorate inspections (Early Years):

2.15 Analysis of the Fife data on Care Inspectorate inspections (Early Years) shows that almost all childcare facilities were evaluated as good or better within each Quality theme.

Key themes emerging by sector from inspections (2019 – 2020)

Primary and Secondary Schools

2.16 Reports from last session indicated some important strengths in our Primary and Secondary Schools. The key themes emerging are:

- Staff demonstrate a high level of professionalism. They embrace professional learning and collaborative working to improve outcomes for children and their families
- Children and young people are motivated, enthusiastic and articulate.
- Positive relationships are evident within schools
- Welcoming and inclusive environments which supports children and young people to engage in their learning
- Effectiveness of supporting children and young people's wellbeing
- Commitment to equity and inclusion which is leading to improved outcomes
- Strong links with a wide range of partners which enhances children and young people's experiences

2.17 Areas for Development are also identified. These are:

- Continue to improve approaches to assessment and moderation
- Ensure children and young people experience high quality learning and teaching and make appropriate progress across all areas of the curriculum
- Review and refresh the curriculum to provide clear progression of skills
- Continue to raise attainment

2.18 During session 2019 – 2020, there was one follow through inspection. (Valley Primary School) Education Scotland noted that the school has made good progress since the original inspection. They were confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

2.19 Education Scotland have two 2 follow up visits to make to Fife schools when inspection activity resumes following COVID 19. (Freuchie Primary School and Beath High School). Whilst inspections are still paused nationally, Education Scotland are currently engaging virtually with these schools and Education Managers to ensure schools are continuing to improve and address areas for improvement which were identified within the original inspection.

2.20 A breakdown of evaluative grades from all Education Scotland Inspections is found within Appendix 2.

Key Messages from Care Inspectorate for Early Years Provision

2.21 Reports from last session indicated some important strengths within Early Years provision. These include:

- Nurturing and positive attachments, promoting high levels of emotional wellbeing and developing confidence and independent in play experiences
- Children leading learning with interests being extended and children involvement in planning and choice making
- Children provided with learning experiences using resources which provide opportunities for curiosity, creativity and problem solving
- Children provided with free flow outdoor play encouraging energetic play and an active lifestyle
- Use made of local assets such as woodland, beach, shops, and care homes to provide children with sense of understanding and community identity and context for learning
- Range of training opportunities for staff to develop appropriate skills and knowledge
- Processes in place to support cycle of continuous improvement.

2.22 Areas for improvement for Early Years Provision were also identified: These include:

- Improve quality of observations made of children's learning and appropriate planning for next steps
- Better use made of PLJs to record progress of learning and care, and improved involvement of children and parents in regularly reflecting on learning, and planning for next steps
- Development of formal quality assurance and monitoring processes to ensure best outcomes for children

Key Messages from Care Inspectorate for Out of School Care and Creche Facilities

2.23 Reports from last session indicated some important strengths within Out of School Care. These include:

- Staff develop positive relations with children and respond well to their needs
- Children have access to a wide variety of activities including energetic play and quieter activities
- Learning experiences provided support children to achieve, develop their independence and promote their thinking skills
- Children are happy and well listened to
- Staff teams are motivated and enthusiastic, and they have opportunities to take on leadership roles

2.24 Areas for improvement for Out of School Care were also identified: These include:

- Review experiences within settings to ensure children are receiving a variety of opportunities

- Continue to review resources and equipment provided in settings to ensure they are interesting for children and provides challenge
- Further develop quality assurance systems to ensure a consistent approach across settings
- Ensure personal plans are regularly reviewed and are readily available for all children

2.25 Reports from last session indicated some important strengths in the Creche Service. These include:

- Staff know children and their families very well and provide secure, warm and caring attachments
- Children are happy and interact positively with their peers and staff
- Services are robustly risk assessed to ensure all aspects of safety and wellbeing
- Play is mainly child led and children can ask for resources or other play activities

2.26 Areas for improvement for the Creche service were also identified: These include:

- Consider availability of outdoor play opportunities in all settings
- Children’s personal plans need to be reviewed more frequently
- Next steps for children need to be closely monitored to ensure they are fully met.

Other evidence on the performance of Fife establishments

2.27 Results from inspections form part of the picture as to how well Fife establishments perform overall. In Fife, there is a range of other evidence on performance that complements the generally positive picture presented through inspection outcomes. While reporting of attainment and achievement provides a narrower focus than the view taken by Education Scotland in the course of the inspection process, nonetheless it offers a clear picture of how well our establishments do in ensuring positive outcomes for our children and young people. The Directorate reported to the Education and Children’s Services Committee on this in February 2020.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Inspections by both the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland continue to be an important part of external scrutiny. These are important events which lead to a published report. Establishments take this process very seriously and staff work extremely hard to ensure that their good work is reflected in the evaluations and the published report.
- 3.2 Overall inspection evidence using Quality Indicators from “How Good is Our School 4” (Appendix 5) and “How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare” (Appendix 4) indicates that the performance of Fife ELC settings and schools, in terms of external evaluation maintain a positive level of outcomes.
- 3.3 Where Education Scotland find that a school is not performing to a satisfactory level, they will decide to return to the school for a further inspection or ‘follow up’ visit. On

the few occasions this happens, Education Service identify immediate actions to ensure the school is well supported in making necessary changes which lead to immediate improvements. In individual cases where there has been a 'follow-up' inspection, there is clear evidence of significant improvement having been achieved.

3.4 Within Fife, we seek continuous and sustained improvement through the engagement and empowerment of school leaders. School leaders are supported and challenged through Learning Partnerships which have been established across all schools. Learning Partnerships:

- Focus on school improvement and improved outcomes for children and young people
- Support strong partnership working between school leadership teams as well as outcomes focussed collaboration
- Provide opportunities to share areas of good practice, expertise, strategies for improvement and offer challenge to achieve continuous improvement
- Support the further development of self-improving systems at local level

This session to support recovery this process has continued for all establishments through a virtual approach.

The Directorate has been engaging school leaders and staff in a range of relevant professional learning which has included: developing quality improvement approaches within school settings, curriculum development, learning, teaching and assessment and Developing the Young Workforce. This work was evident prior to COVID 19 and has continued with a focus on recovery since March 2020.

During recovery Education Scotland colleagues have worked collaboratively with individual schools, clusters, groups of Headteachers and Education Management team to support continued work on improving outcomes for all learners across Fife establishments.

We will continue to work in collaboration with schools within Fife and across the broader South East Improvement Collaborative to continue to improve outcomes for all children and young people in all educational establishments.

Additional professional learning is also planned and delivered to support educational establishments to further explore key themes being identified.

3.5 Information we gather both locally and nationally from Education Scotland Inspections is shared centrally within the Education Management Team and this session Learning Partnership meetings and cluster meetings. Across the South East Improvement Collaborative there will be a continued focus on supporting Quality improvement across the regional area.

3.6 Although prior to COVID inspection activity in schools and centres was increasing, some schools will not have been inspected for a considerable period of time. We cannot and do not wait on inspection activity alone to help secure continuous improvement. Working with professionals across Fife, the Directorate is seeking to ensure that schools and practitioners take increasing ownership for improving practice and, of course, improving outcomes for our children and young people. This

is entirely consistent with the national direction of travel in terms of emphasising the importance of schools and Headteachers leading the improvement process through the empowerment agenda.

List of Appendices

1. Fife and national statistics for Education Scotland Inspections (all establishments)
2. Fife and national statistics for Education Scotland Inspections (pre-school centres)
3. Evaluative Grades for Educational Establishments Session 2019 - 2020
4. Evaluative Grades for Care Inspectorate for Early Years Settings Session
5. Evaluative Grades for Care Inspectorate for Out of School Club and Creche
6. HGIO-ELC – How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare Centre
https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/Frameworks_SelfEvaluation/FRWK1_NIHeditSelf-evaluationHGIELC/HGIOELC020316Revised.pdf
7. HGIOS4 – How Good is Our School 4
https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/Frameworks_SelfEvaluation/FRWK2_NIHeditHGIOS/FRWK2_HGIOS4.pdf

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Appendix 1 - Education Scotland Inspections - HGIOS 4/HGIOELC

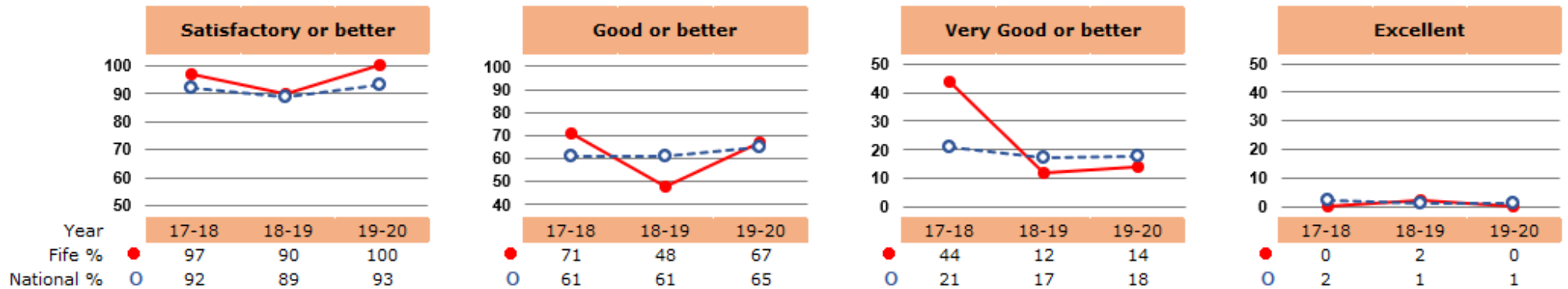
National Indicator: Increase the proportion of schools receiving positive inspection reports

Comparison of Fife Council schools to national results

Source: Education Scotland QI Data November 2019

Percentage comparison of HGIOS 4 and HGIOELC quality indicators 1.3, 2.3, 3.1 & 3.2

All schools and Pre-School Nursery Centres



Appendix 2 – Education Scotland Inspections- HGIOELC

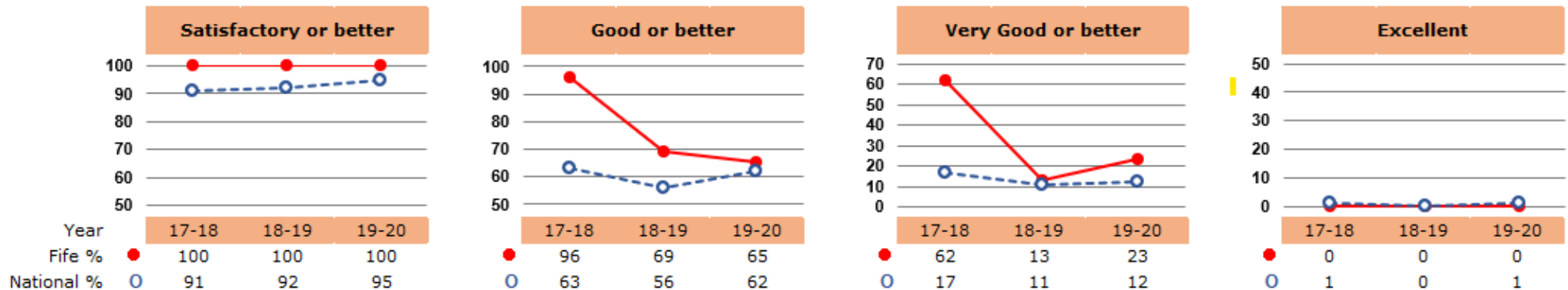
National Indicator: Increase the proportion of schools receiving positive inspection reports

Comparison of Fife Council schools to national results

Source: Education Scotland QI Data November 2019

Percentage comparison of HGIOS 4 quality indicators 1.3, 2.3, 3.1 & 3.2

All Pre-School Nursery Centres



Appendix 3

Evaluative Grades per Educational Establishment Session 2019 - 2020

- 1.3 Leadership of Change
- 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
- 3.1 Ensuring inclusion, wellbeing and equality
- 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement (or securing children's progress in the Early Years sector)

Schools	Inspection Date		1.3	2.3	3.1	3.2
Dunnikier PS	01/11/2019			Very Good		Very Good
Dunnikier PS (NC)	01/11/2019			Very Good		Very Good
Southwood PS	01/09/2019		Very Good	Good	Good	Good
Southwood PS (NC)	01/09/2019		Good	Good	Good	Good
Glenrothes HS	01/12/2019			Good		Good
Strathmiglo PS	01/11/2019		Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Strathmiglo PS (NC)	01/11/2019		Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Camdean PS	01/10/2019		Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Camdean PS (NC)	01/10/2019		Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Foulford PS	01/12/2019			Good		Satisfactory
Foulford PS (NC)	01/12/2019			Very Good		Very Good
St Agatha's PS	01/11/2019		Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
St Agatha's PS (NC)	01/11/2019		Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good
Saline PS	01/03/2020		Good	Good	Good	Good
Saline PS (NC)	01/03/2020		Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Bell Baxter HS	01/02/2020		Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Kennoway PS	01/03/2020			Good		Good
Kennoway PS (NC)	01/03/2020			Good		Good
Aberdour PS	01/02/2020		Good	Good	Good	Good
Aberdour PS (NC)	01/02/2020		Good	Good	Good	Good

Appendix 4

Evaluative Grades Care Inspectorate for Early Years Provision

- 1 Quality of Care and Support
- 2 Quality of environment
- 3 Quality of Staffing
- 4 Quality of Management and Leadership

Establishment	Inspection date	1	2	3	4
Collydean PS Nursery	10/19	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Paxton Nursery	10/19	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent	Very Good
South Parks PS Nursery	10/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Auchtermuchty PS Nursery	11/19	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Very Good
Benarty PS Nursery	11/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Cowdenbeath PS Nursery	11/19	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Westfield Family Nurture Centre	11/19	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent	Good
Crossford PS Nursery	12/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Dalgety Bay PS Nursery	12/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Kilmaron Special School Nursery	12/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Kirkcaldy West PS Nursery	12/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Lynburn PS Nursery	12/19	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent
St Ninian's RC PS Nursery	12/19	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Good
Carleton Nursery	9/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Lawhead PS Nursery	9/19	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Southwood PS Nursery	1/20	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Tulliallan PS Nursery	1/20	Excellent	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good
Cairneyhill PS Nursery	2/20	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent	Very Good
East Wemyss PS Nursery	2/20	Good	Good	Good	Good
Foulford PS Nursery	2/20	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Pitreavie PS Nursery	2/20	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good

Appendix 5

Evaluative Grades Care Inspectorate for Out of School Provision and Creche Facilities

- 1 Quality of Care and Support
- 2 Quality of environment
- 3 Quality of Staffing
- 4 Quality of Management and Leadership

Establishment	1	2	3	4
Leuchars Out of School Club	Very Good	Very Good	N/A	N/A
Bellyeoman Out of School Club	Adequate	N/A	Good	N/A
Culross Out of School Club	Good	N/A	N/A	Good
Aberdour Out of School Club	Good	N/A	Good	N/A
Dalgety Bay Out of School Club	Very Good	N/A	N/A	Very Good
Masterton Out of School Club	Very Good	Very Good	N/A	N/A
Fife Mobile Creche Service	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Very Good
Kelty Creche	Very Good	Good	Good	N/A

26th January 2021

Agenda Item

8

Education & Children's Services Directorate Revenue Budget 2020-21 Projected Outturn

Report by:

Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director Education and Children's Services
Eileen Rowand, Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the forecast financial position for the 2020-21 financial year, for the areas in scope of the Education and Children's Services Committee.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- a. consider the current financial performance and activity as detailed in this report;
- b. note that officers will ensure that the risks associated with Looked After Children are appropriately managed whilst taking action to address the projected overspend in Children and Families Service;
- c. note that the Education and Children's Services Directorate continues to implement the Children and Families Strategy to reduce the reliance on purchased care placements and increase the number of children who can be looked after safely at home or in kinship care.

Resource Implications

The Directorate remains committed to managing the budget and developing and implementing the strategy to address the demographic pressures on the budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

The Directorate requires to discharge its duty as Corporate Parent to all Looked After Children and to support their families accordingly. It is committed to proactive management of the budget to reduce the level of care placements whilst managing the risk to individuals.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary as no change or revision to existing policies and practices is proposed.

Consultation

None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the projected outturn for the Education and Children's Services Directorate (excluding Criminal Justice), for the 2020-21 Revenue Budget, and to highlight the major variances as at October 2020. This is the second monitoring report to the members of the Strategic Sub Committee for the 2020-21 financial year.

2.0 Major Variances

2.1 Education and Children's Services 2020-21 Projected Overspend £3.933m, movement £0.374m

- 2.1.1 The projected overspend, for this financial year, for Education and Children's Services (excluding Criminal Justice) is £3.933m. A summary of the 2020-21 projected out-turn is detailed in Appendices 1-2. This shows projected expenditure against budget across the service headings within the Directorate. It should be noted that the balances are extracted from the ledger system and are shown as rounded thousands. This may mean that there are some rounding differences contained within the appendices, but these are immaterial values that do not impact on the overall financial position. The following paragraphs provide a brief explanation of the main areas where there are significant variances (+/- £0.250m) to budgets.

- 2.1.2 The estimated financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been reported to Policy and Co-ordination Committee previously. This report highlights the estimated costs in relation to Education and Children's Services, and the mitigation available to the Directorate to absorb some of these costs. This mitigation is in terms of specific funding from Scottish Government, for example in relation to additional teaching staff, or the application of flexibilities in Early Learning and Childcare and Pupil Equity Funding made available to councils by the Scottish Government in order to mitigate the financial impact. An additional column has been included in the appendices attached in relation to Covid costs.

2.2 Education Service

- 2.2.1 DSM Budget: - projected overspend £0.439m, movement £0.665m

Under the DSM Scheme, schools' budgets are calculated and allocated with reference to a range of formulae based on appropriate data, for example school roll. Schools budgets have now been updated to reflect updated rolls and projections have been provided by schools. The variance reported under the DSM within this report relates to a number of projected overspends across secondary schools, and a small projected underspend within employee costs relating to vacancies within the Pupil Support Service.

- 2.2.2 Some additional costs due to Covid are included in the DSM projected outturn, for example costs in relation to the appointment of additional newly qualified teachers of £3.636m, and additional support staff of £0.242m however these costs will be met from additional funding announced by the Scottish Government. Further additional costs relate to delays in implementing approved savings within

the DSM due to the impact of Covid of £1.700m, and potential costs in relation to refunds to parents for school trips of £0.747m. However, it is assumed that these costs will be accommodated from flexibilities allowed by the Scottish Government in the use of other funding streams, to meet additional costs arising from the pandemic. Funding of £2.447m has been assumed within the DSM from flexibilities to meet projected Covid costs which currently have no specific funding.

- 2.2.3 The movement since the last report is due to the inclusion of projected overspends within secondary schools of £0.552m, and a reduction in the projected underspend within Special Education of £0.114m.
- 2.2.4 In addition to the core DSM budget, schools' Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) has also been included in their devolved budgets. Any unspent PEF at 31 March was carried forward for schools, and in addition schools' allocations for 2020-21 have been applied to budgets. These amounts are £2.531m, and £9.880m respectively. PEF is a ring-fenced funding source, and therefore has no impact on the variance within the service.
- 2.2.5 Non-DSM/Childcare: - projected overspend £2.552m, movement £0.144m
- 2.2.6 The projected overspend mainly relates to maternity pay and long-term absence, and overspends of £2.749m and £0.616m are included within the projection. These costs are in relation to teachers, but are borne by the non-devolved central Education budget and not the DSM. These overspends are reduced by a projected underspend in Early Years, of £0.371m, mainly due to the timing of recruiting of EYO Modern Apprentices and also a minor underspend on Non Domestic Rates. Additionally there is a projected underspend in Special Education of £0.317m due to projected underspends on employee costs.
- 2.2.7 In relation to Covid, costs are included within Non Devolved Education in relation to estimated additional costs for school transport of £0.227m, additional heating costs of £2.500m, reconfiguration costs for school buildings of £0.876m, supply teacher/temporary teacher and additional activity centre pay costs of £0.760m, additional IT costs of £0.501m, projected PPE costs of £3.803m, emergency childcare for key workers of £0.150m; and projected loss of income in relation to Childcare Services of £1.375m and Music Service of £0.450m. It should be noted that some of these costs are estimates which will require to be refined as more information becomes available. Some of these costs will be offset by additional funding from the Scottish Government, however some will require to be met from the flexibilities in funding available to the Council this financial year, and £6.596m of funding has been applied to the non devolved Education budget for this purpose.
- 2.3 Children and Families Service – projected overspend £0.942m, movement (£0.435m)
- 2.3.1 The position for Children and Families service reflects a projected overspend mainly due to projected overspends on third party payments, relating to Family Placements (mainly Kinship Care) of £1.185m, due to increase in demand for family placement services which is in line with the service's strategy of shifting the balance of care, Continuing Care of £0.967m due to higher than anticipated demand for this service, and Grants to Voluntary Organisations of £0.361m due

to unachieved savings. These overspends are partially offset by underspends in staffing costs of £0.630m due to staff turnover, purchased placements of £0.248m and mileage and transport costs of £0.582m due to the impact of covid restrictions meaning less travel has been required. The movement since the last report is mainly due to reductions purchased placements of £0.622m.

- 2.3.2 The projection for Children and Families reflects the impact of reduced numbers of high cost residential placements and the service will seek to reduce these numbers further throughout this financial year and refocus residential care as a short term intervention for children. Residential placement numbers have reduced from 80 placements on 31 March to 56 at the end of October. Similarly external foster care placements have reduced from 208 to 176 over the same period. However, as the service shifts the balance of care from external purchased care to at home or kinship care, the number of children in Kinship care arrangements has increased from 226 to 258.
- 2.3.3 In relation to Covid, the projected costs include overtime costs of £0.107m to cover staff absences. Also included are additional costs for our in-house foster carers, and additional maintenance costs for young people, in line with new legislation, and additional IT equipment of £0.208m. These additional estimated costs have been partially offset by the application of flexibilities in funding from Looked After Children Attainment Funding of £0.315m.

3.0 Savings

- 3.1 Revenue Budget Savings 2020-21
- 3.1.1 The combined savings target, as approved in the 2020-23 budget process and earlier budget processes for the Directorate (excluding Criminal Justice), for this financial year is £4.208m. An indication of the forecast achievement of savings is attached at Appendix 3. Savings anticipated to be achieved are indicated by a green RAG status coding. Those indicated amber are where the saving is currently expected to be achieved in part or where evidence of achievement of the saving through future revenue monitoring is required before the saving can be flagged as green.
- 3.1.2 Savings flagged as red in Appendix 3 require significant work to be undertaken before these savings can be achieved. Additional information in relation to the savings where there is currently a variance, is included below:
- Review the financial model of Headteacher allocation – the implementation of this saving has been delayed due to the impact of Covid, which has meant that it was difficult to develop plans for this saving across schools.
 - Review of DSM to include a review of the secondary schools week – as above, the impact of Covid has meant that there has been no opportunity to develop plans for the implementation of this saving.

- Customer Programme – Develop and Deliver Process Improvements – this saving mainly relates to admin processes in schools. It has not been possible to undertake the analysis and development work required whilst schools have been closed and staff working remotely.
- Transition planning for young people with lifelong needs – the impact of Covid has led to a delay to the implementation of this saving.
- Review management structure across the Family Nurture Centres – this saving is delayed due to the impact of Covid as the implementation of the Managing Change required has been delayed as the service requires to minimise the movement of staff across settings.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The projected outturn for the Education and Children’s Services Directorate Revenue Budget (excluding Criminal Justice) for 2020-21 is a projected overspend of £3.933m. The dominant factors within the projection are the projected overspend in respect of long-term absence and maternity leave within Education, and the overspend in Children and Families service due to a projected overspend on Continuing Care and Kinship Care. These overspends are partly offset by the projected underspends within Early Years, Special Education and Children and Families, due to recruitment lead in times and staff vacancies.

List of Appendices

1. Education and Children’s Services / Devolved / Non-Devolved Revenue Monitor 2020-21
2. Children and Families Service (excluding Criminal Justice) Revenue Monitor 2020-21
3. Savings Tracker 2020-21

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BUDGET MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY 2020-21 EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO OCTOBER 2020								Appendix 1
SERVICE	CURRENT BUDGET 2020- 21 £m	NON-COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	FORECAST 2020-21 £m	FORECAST VARIANCE £m	FORECAST VARIANCE %	PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m	MOVEMENT FROM PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m
SERVICE MANAGED NET BUDGET	375.872	379.806	0.000	379.806	3.933	1.05%	3.560	0.374
ANALYSIS OF SERVICE MANAGED BUDGET								
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - DEVOLVED	204.819	205.257	0.000	205.257	0.439	0.21%	(0.226)	0.665
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - NON DEVOLVED	107.967	110.519	0.000	110.519	2.552	2.36%	2.409	0.144
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES excl CRIMINAL JUSTICE	63.086	64.029	0.000	64.029	0.942	1.49%	1.377	(0.435)
EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO OCTOBER 2020	375.872	379.806	0.000	379.806	3.933	1.05%	3.560	0.374

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY 2020-21 EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO OCTOBER 2020 - DEVOLVED SCHOOLS BUDGET								
SERVICE	CURRENT BUDGET 2020- 21 £m	NON-COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	FORECAST 2020-21 £m	FORECAST VARIANCE £m	FORECAST VARIANCE %	PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m	MOVEMENT FROM PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m
SERVICE MANAGED NET BUDGET	204.819	205.257	0.000	205.257	0.439	0.21%	(0.226)	0.665
ANALYSIS OF SERVICE MANAGED BUDGET								
PRIMARY EDUCATION	98.977	98.977	0.000	98.977	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000
SECONDARY EDUCATION	98.952	99.504	0.000	99.504	0.553	0.56%	0.000	0.553
NURSERY EDUCATION	2.359	2.359	0.000	2.359	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000
SPECIAL EDUCATION	4.430	4.316	0.000	4.316	(0.114)	-2.57%	(0.226)	0.112
AREA GROUPS	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.101	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - DEVOLVED	204.819	205.257	0.000	205.257	0.439	0.21%	(0.226)	0.665

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY 2020-21 EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO OCTOBER 2020 - NON DEVOLVED EDUCATION								
SERVICE	CURRENT BUDGET 2020- 21 £m	NON-COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	FORECAST 2020-21 £m	FORECAST VARIANCE £m	FORECAST VARIANCE %	PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m	MOVEMENT FROM PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m
SERVICE MANAGED NET BUDGET	107.967	110.519	0.000	110.519	2.552	2.36%	2.409	0.144
ANALYSIS OF SERVICE MANAGED BUDGET								
PRIMARY EDUCATION	19.178	21.400	0.221	21.621	2.443	12.74%	2.433	0.010
SECONDARY EDUCATION	19.831	21.123	0.275	21.398	1.567	7.90%	1.302	0.266
NURSERY EDUCATION	25.884	25.491	(0.464)	25.026	(0.858)	-3.31%	(0.717)	(0.141)
SPECIAL EDUCATION	30.530	29.928	0.096	30.024	(0.506)	-1.66%	(0.412)	(0.094)
AREA GROUPS	0.629	0.479	0.000	0.479	(0.150)	-23.83%	(0.075)	(0.075)
EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION	4.358	4.313	0.000	4.313	(0.045)	-1.04%	0.040	(0.085)
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	0.307	0.307	0.000	0.307	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000
MUSIC SERVICE	1.669	1.774	0.450	2.224	0.555	33.26%	0.450	0.105
SUPPORT SERVICES	3.086	3.104	0.000	3.104	0.018	0.57%	0.000	0.018
GENERAL EDUCATION	0.664	0.770	(1.905)	(1.135)	(1.799)	-271.11%	(1.830)	0.031
CHILDCARE SERVICES	1.831	1.831	1.328	3.159	1.328	72.55%	1.218	0.110
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES - NON DEVOLVED	107.967	110.519	0.000	110.519	2.552	2.36%	2.409	0.144

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY 2020-21 EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO OCTOBER 2020								Appendix 2
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE	CURRENT BUDGET 2020-21 £m	NON-COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	FORECAST 2020-21 £m	FORECAST VARIANCE £m	FORECAST VARIANCE %	PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m	MOVEMENT FROM PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m
SERVICE MANAGED NET BUDGET	63.086	64.029	0.000	64.029	0.942	1.49%	1.377	(0.435)
ANALYSIS OF SERVICE MANAGED BUDGET								
C&F West	3.269	3.056	0.000	3.056	(0.213)	-6.52%	(0.207)	(0.006)
C&F East	2.278	2.215	0.000	2.215	(0.063)	-2.75%	(0.060)	(0.003)
C&F Fife Wide	33.980	34.500	(0.271)	34.229	0.248	0.73%	0.638	(0.389)
C&F Residential	4.182	3.771	0.107	3.878	(0.304)	-7.27%	(0.308)	0.004
C&F Family Placement	10.888	12.057	0.054	12.111	1.223	11.23%	1.149	0.073
Senior Manager	1.987	2.202	0.110	2.312	0.326	16.39%	0.433	(0.108)
Family Support	2.913	2.858	0.000	2.858	(0.055)	-1.90%	(0.054)	(0.001)
C&F Central	3.589	3.370	0.000	3.370	(0.219)	-6.11%	(0.214)	(0.005)
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE TO OCTOBER 2020	63.086	64.029	0.000	64.029	0.942	1.49%	1.377	(0.435)

SUBJECTIVE GROUPING	CURRENT BUDGET 2020-21 £m	NON-COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	COVID PROJECTION 2020-21 £m	FORECAST 2020-21 £m	FORECAST VARIANCE £m	FORECAST VARIANCE %	PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m	MOVEMENT FROM PREVIOUS REPORTED VARIANCE £m
SERVICE MANAGED NET EXPENDITURE	63.086	64.029	0.000	64.029	0.942	1.49%	1.377	(0.435)
INCOME	(1.305)	(0.990)	(0.315)	(1.305)	0.000	0.00%	(0.420)	0.420
EXPENDITURE	64.391	65.018	0.315	65.333	0.942	1.46%	1.797	(0.855)
EMPLOYEE COSTS	23.988	23.329	0.107	23.436	(0.552)	-2.52%	(0.638)	0.086
PREMISES RELATED EXPENDITURE	0.276	0.307	0.000	0.307	0.031	2.42%	0.027	0.004
TRANSPORT RELATED EXPENDITURE	1.379	0.797	0.000	0.797	(0.582)	-1.18%	(0.372)	(0.209)
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	1.622	1.694	0.110	1.804	0.182	2.08%	0.497	(0.315)
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	33.503	35.115	0.098	35.213	1.711	2.66%	2.123	(0.412)
TRANSFER PAYMENTS	3.622	3.774	0.000	3.774	0.152	0.00%	0.160	(0.008)
SUPPORT SERVICES CHARGES	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000

FIFE COUNCIL
TRACKING APPROVED 2020-21 SAVINGS
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2020

Area	Approved Budget Year	Title of Savings Proposal	Savings Target £m	Overall Forecast £m	(Under)/Over £m	Rag Status
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Review the financial model of Headteacher allocation.	0.300	0.000	(0.300)	Red
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Review of the Devolved School Management (DSM), to include a review of the secondary school week.	1.400	0.000	(1.400)	Red
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Customer Programme – Develop and Deliver process improvements to high-volume admin and clerical processes e.g. Pupil Data Capture, Primary 1 Enrolment and the My Fife Card.	0.200	0.000	(0.200)	Red
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Transition planning for young people with lifelong additional needs.	0.110	0.000	(0.110)	Amber
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Review management structure across Family Nurture Centres and early years provisions.	0.290	0.000	(0.290)	Amber
Education & Children Services	2018-21	Develop the peripatetic model for the delivery of access to a teacher in nurseries and reduce the number of nursery teacher posts.	0.065	0.065	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2019-22	Review the Management Structures in the Secondary Sector.	0.250	0.250	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2019-22	Teacher Supply Budget.	0.132	0.132	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Review of Attendance Officer posts.	0.085	0.085	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Realign budget for Assessment for Excellence.	0.050	0.050	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Review of Early Years Officers posts.	0.700	0.700	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Special Education – contributions to/from other local authorities.	0.325	0.325	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2020-23	Commercialisation Programme - Procurement General stationery contract saving.	0.051	0.051	0.000	Green
Education & Children Services	2019-22	Primary Class Sizes.	0.250	0.250	0.000	Green
Grand Total			4.208	1.908	(2.300)	

Rag Status Key:-

Green - No issues and saving is on track to be delivered

Amber - There are minor issues or minor reduction in the value of saving, or delivery of the saving is delayed

Red - Major issues should be addressed before any saving can be realised

Summary			
Rag Status	Savings Target £m	Overall Forecast £m	(Under)/Over £m
Green	1.908	1.908	0.000
Amber	0.400	0.000	(0.400)
Red	1.900	0.000	
Total	4.208	1.908	(2.300)

26th January 2021

Agenda Item 9

Education and Children's Services Directorate Capital Investment Plan 2020-2021: Progress Report

Report by: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education and Children's Services

Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

This report provides members with information on the overall progress of the Education and Children's Services Directorate's capital programme for the current financial year 2020-21, as well as informing members of progress on our major projects.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members;

- i) note the financial position as detailed in this report, and
- ii) note that the budget has been revised to reflect the outcome of the Capital Plan review undertaken in February 2019 and subsequent re-phasing exercise carried out in July 2020.

Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications. As at October 2020 the Directorate is projecting a final outturn of £40.622m against a budget of £41.276m which is a spend of 98%. The variance of £0.654m is the result of slippage in the current year.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report. However, there is a risk that the actual outturn will vary from the projection contained in the report. Any potential over or under spend will be managed within the capital programme in 2020-2021 and the programme re-profiled over future years.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA has not been completed and is not necessary as no change or revision to existing policies is proposed.

Consultation

Not Applicable.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the overall progress of projects within the capital programme for the current year as well as providing an update on projects under individual headings within the capital plan.
- 1.2 This report focuses on one year; the projected outturn is currently £40.622m, which is a variance of £0.654m from budget, however, this may change as projects develop throughout the financial year.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 provides the cost detail on individual projects and programmes within the capital plan where expenditure exceeds £1m.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 provides the projected final outturn for Education and Children's Services for the year 2020-2021

2.0 Issues and Options

Key Issues / Risks

- 2.1 Due to the impact of Covid-19, on site construction work was suspended on 23 March 2020. Construction work has commenced again in accordance with Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's Route Map, however, it is likely that Covid-19 will impact on project costs and will extend all project delivery dates as contractors make adjustments to working arrangements to accommodate new requirements, such as social distancing. Some claims from contractors have been received in relation to closing down, maintaining and re-opening sites and also in relation to preparation work for recommencing on site. Monitoring of the impact of these additional costs and timescales is ongoing and it is likely that the overall scale of these additional costs will be clearer in the coming months.

Major Projects

- 2.2 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the projected outturn for the major projects and programmes within the Education and Children's Services Capital Plan. Madras College is progressing well and is showing significant spend with a projected spend of £21.823m in the current year. Construction on the project started on site in July 2019 and is due to complete in July 2021. Early Learning and Childcare programme is progressing now at pace with most of the outstanding projects due to complete in April 2021. However, the programme will run through to February 2022 to enable the completion of the final projects. Within the Primary School Development programme there is currently one project on site which is the extension and refurbishment of Guardbridge primary school this project is due to be completed for August 2021.

Potential Risks and Actions

- 2.3 The Capital Plan includes investment in respect of Secondary Schools in West Fife. This investment is required across the secondary estate to meet the infrastructure requirements for all secondary schools in the area, and is intended to address both school condition, and the need for additional school places arising from housing development. Part of this investment will be the Dunfermline Learning Campus,

which will replace Woodmill and St Columba's RC High Schools and co-locate provision with Fife College. Work is continuing with Fife College to develop the business case for the campus. Discussions around the funding of the Council element are progressing with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Futures Trust.

- 2.4 Within Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) the delivery date of August 2020 was been removed by the Scottish Government in light of Covid-19. A new implementation date of August 2021 has recently been announced. Most of the remaining projects will be completed before this date, however some alternative provision may require to be put in place in the interim while the final projects are completed.

Financial Performance – 2020-2021 projected spend

- 2.5 Appendix 2 details the projected outturn for 2020-2021 against the main projects and Investment Themes.
- 2.6 Overall, projects within Building Fife's Future are reporting on budget.
- 2.7 The investment themes are projecting an overall variance of £0.648m. The ELC theme has slippage of £0.547m. However, some additional costs have been incurred in response to Covid-19, and required mitigation measures, which can be funded from the 1140 ELC revenue funding through a capital from current revenue (CFCR) transfer. The request to progress this will go to the next Investment Strategy Group for approval.
- 2.8 The Primary School Development programme is also showing slippage of £0.335m this mostly relates to the decision to postpone the modular unit at McLean primary school until August 2021. To offset this slippage projects have been advanced within the Education Rolling programme currently this theme is over budget by £0.228m which will be adjusted in future years of the plan.
- 2.9 The Looked after Children Homes re-provision investment theme has an overspend of £0.331m this relates to the new Raith Grove children's home in Kirkcaldy and is the result of additional Covid-19 costs. This overspend will be off-set from funding from the overall Looked after Children theme.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The projected outturn position for the capital programme for Education and Children's Services Directorate is £40.622m. Slippage of £0.654m is projected.
- 3.2 The management of capital resources require us to look across financial years, as well as within individual years. The current year performance is only a snapshot of the existing plan and the Directorate will adjust expenditure levels within future years of the plan to accommodate the advancement of projects.

List of Appendices

1. Project Cost Monitor
2. Capital Plan 2020-2021 Forecast Expenditure

Background Papers

Not applicable

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**FIFE COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE
CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2020-29
TOTAL COST MONITOR - MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Appendix 1

Project	Theme	Total Project Budget £m	Total Projected Outturn £m	Variance £m	Variance %	Current Project Status	Expected Project Completion Date
Madras College - Langlands	Opportunities for All	58.270	58.270	-	0.00%	Current Project	2021-22
Extension Secondary School - Auchmuty	Opportunities for All	9.620	9.620	-	0.00%	Future Project	2022-23
Extension Secondary School - Viewforth	Opportunities for All	5.989	5.989	-	0.00%	Future Project	2025-26
New Secondary School - Glenrothes /Glenwood	Opportunities for All	27.532	27.532	-	0.00%	Future Project	2028-29
Early Learning and Childcare	Opportunities for All	31.965	31.965	-	0.00%	Current Project	2021-22
Primary School Development	Opportunities for All	88.042	88.042	-	0.00%	Current Project	2028-29
Secondary Schools West Fife	Opportunities for All	120.483	120.483	-	0.00%	Future Project	2028-29
Balwearie High School	Maintaining Our Assets	8.300	8.300	-	0.00%	Future Project	
Total Major Capital Projects over £5.000m		341.901	341.901	-	0.00%		
Rimbleton Home Reprovision	Opportunities for All	1.394	1.394	-	0.00%	Current Project	
Touch Primary School Extension	Opportunities for All	2.060	2.060	-	0.00%	Current Project	
Masterton Primary School 2 Class Extension	Opportunities for All	1.000	1.000	-	0.00%	Current Project	
Total Major Capital Projects over £1.000m		4.454	4.454	-	0.00%		
Total Major Capital Projects		346.355	346.355	-	0.00%		

FIFE COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE
CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2020-29
MONITORING REPORT

Appendix 2

Expenditure	Current Budget £m	Actual to Date £m	Projected Outturn £m	Projected Variance £m	Projected Outturn as % of Plan
BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE					
TO BE PROGRAMMED	0.159	-	-	(0.159)	0%
AUCHMUTY HIGH SCHOOL NEW BUILD	-	-	-	-	0%
DUNFERMLINE HIGH SCHOOL NEW BUILD	-	-	-	-	0%
LEVENMOUTH ACADEMY	-	0.003	0.003	0.003	0%
MADRAS COLLEGE NEW BUILD	21.823	5.863	21.823	-	100%
WAID ACADEMY CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION	-	-	-	-	0%
WINDMILL COMMUNITY CAMPUS	-	0.000	0.000	0.000	0%
CARNEGIE PRIMARY SCHOOL - EXTENSION	-	-	-	-	0%
MADRAS COLLEGE REFURBISHMENT WORKS	-	-	-	-	0%
AUCHMUTY SECONDARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	-	-	-	-	0%
VIEWFORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	-	-	-	-	0%
SECONDARY SCHOOL GLENROTHES-GLENWOOD	-	-	-	-	0%
SECONDARY SCHOOLS WEST FIFE	-	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE	21.982	5.866	21.826	(0.156)	99%
INVESTMENT THEMES					
ICT PROGRAMME	1.000	0.511	0.996	(0.004)	100%
DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS	0.272	0.321	0.272	-	100%
EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE	13.205	4.080	12.659	(0.547)	96%
NURSERIES AND PRIMARIES PRESSURES	1.213	0.380	1.223	0.010	101%
PRIMARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT	1.430	0.189	1.095	(0.335)	77%
SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT	0.250	0.122	0.250	-	100%
EDUCATION ROLLING PROGRAMME	1.555	0.369	1.783	0.228	115%
NURSERY REFURBISHMENT	-	0.083	-	-	0%
TOTAL INVESTMENT THEMES	18.925	6.055	18.277	(0.648)	97%
CHILDREN'S SERVICES					
LOOKED AFER CHILDREN HOMES REPROVISION	0.038	0.001	0.369	0.331	984%
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	0.331	0.443	0.150	(0.181)	45%
TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES	0.369	0.445	0.519	0.150	141%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	41.276	12.366	40.622	(0.654)	98%

Income	Current Budget £m	Actual to Date £m	Projected Outturn £m	Projected Variance £m	Projected Outturn as % of Plan
BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE	0.048	(0.008)	0.048	-	100%
ICT PROGRAMME	-	-	-	-	0%
DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS	(0.435)	-	(0.435)	-	100%
EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE	(7.100)	(7.100)	(7.100)	-	100%
NURSERIES AND PRIMARIES PRESSURES	-	-	-	-	0%
PRIMARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT	-	-	-	-	0%
SECONDARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT	-	-	-	-	0%
EDUCATION ROLLING PROGRAMME	-	-	-	-	0%
NURSERY REFURBISHMENT	-	-	-	-	0%
LOOKED AFER CHILDREN HOMES REPROVISION	-	-	-	-	0%
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	-	(0.001)	-	-	0%
TOTAL INCOME	(7.487)	(7.108)	(7.487)	-	100%

Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee of 16 March 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Fife Corporate Parent Board	Education and Children's Services	Kathy Henwood, Michael Scanlin	01.09.20 previous minute ref para 178 (2) of 2020.ECS.68 refers - remit and activities of FCPB. To be considered on 26 January 2021. Now due 16.03.21.
Building Fife's Future - DLC Approach	Education and Children's Services	Maria Lloyd	
Senior Phase Outcomes	Education and Children's Services	Maria Lloyd	Including update on the SLWG as agreed at P&C on 27.08.20
Digital Learning Cultural Strategy	Education and Children's Services	Angela Logue, Steven Eagleson	
Chief Social Work Officer Report	Education and Children's Services	Kathy Henwood	
Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021 (due 16/03/2021)			

Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee of 11 May 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Early Years Admissions Update	Education and Children's Services	Shelagh McLean, Jacqueline Price	Deferred from 26.01.21 then advised by Service to defer to 11.05.21.
Our Minds Matter: Fife Schools' Counselling Service Update (due 11/05/2021)	Education and Children's Services	Rona Weir	Further update from 03.11.20 Committee.
Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme 2021 (due 11/05/2021)			

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Dunfermline North Catchment Review	Education and Children's Services	Shelagh McLean	Para. 88 of 2018.EChSC.52 refers - to carry out a catchment review asap in Dunfermline North.
Establishing the Walked Routes to Schools - Assessment	Education and Children's Services	Shelagh McLean	19th March, 2019 Para 116 - to come back one year from implementation ie after August 2021
Workforce Planning	Education and Children's Services	Shelagh McLean	
Secondary School Staffwise Survey Update	Education and Children's Services	Neil Finnie, Murray McBain	Update since report of 11 February 2020 - Minute Ref. Para. 168 of 2020.ECS.63
Agile Action Plan for 2020-21 Update	Education and Children's Services	Angela Logue, Stuart Booker	01.09.20 previous minute para ref 175 (2) of 2020.ECS.67 refers.